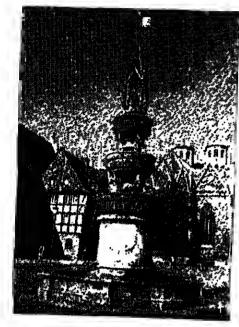


# The Harz and Heath Route



German roads will get you there - to areas at times so attractive that one route leads to the next, from the Harz mountains to the Lüneburg Heath, say. Maybe you should take a look at both.

The Harz, northernmost part of the Mittelgebirge range, Is holiday country all the year round. In summer for hikers, in winter for sklers in their tens of thousands. Tour from the hill resorts of Osterode, Clausthal-Zellerfeld or Bad Harzburg or from the 1,000-

year-old town of Goslar. The Heath extends from Celle, with its town centre of halftimbered houses unscathed by the war and the oldest theatre in Germany, to Lüneburg, also 1,000 years old. It boasts wide expanses of flat countryside, purple heather and herds of local curly-horned sheep.

Visit Germany and let the Harz and Heath Route be your guide.







Brunswick

farmhouse

Göttingen

3 The Harz

2 An old Lüneburg Heath



# Routes to tour in Germany The German Tribune

Twenty-slatb year - No. 1265 - By alr

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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# High hopes that 1987 will be year of disarmament

#### General Anzeiger

Chancellor Kohl hopes 1987 will be a year of disarmament. There are grounds for his hopes even though there are only 10 months remaining in

This deadline is set by the run up to the US Presidential election compaign. President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachov will have to agree on a trailblazing part arms control agreement by outurn at the latest,

The start made in Reykjavik will then probably be brought to a bull because of the problems of an election year in America and the initial difficulties a new President will have in

But there is still hope that President Reagan will be part of a deal in spite of his political fatigue over Irangate and the shadows over the last lap of his presidency.

An East-West agreement on arms limitation could yet make his time at me

#### IN THIS ISSUE

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INDUSTRY How an aarospace glant grew out of a mischievous

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White House a memorable chapter in

Gorbachov sees disarmament as part of his plans to boost economic efficiency. His aim is, in the final analysis, to arrive at agreed security on less expensive, less explosive terms.

The road to agreement along which both sides must travel is paved with obstacles, but they are obstacles that can be surmonnted.

That applies to Soviet insistence on a linkage between major disarmament agreements on, say, Eurostrategic wea-

It also applies to the new rhetoric muinly encountered among American SDI hawks who see early deployment of anti-missile systems in outer space as possible and are keen to widen the terms defined in the 1972 ABM Treaty with the Soviet Union.

They feel Moscow will show greater readiness to meet Washington halfway if the pace is forced on SDI.

need to make it clear they have no intention of unilaterally breaking the bounds of an agreed interpretation on the development and testing of antimissile missiles.

This is the sole understanding, possibly including a reinterprepation of the ABM Treaty and a new timemble, on which part of the reciprocal rapprochement achieved at Reykjavik might be continued and brought to a

That is all Chancellor Kohl means in

Richard Perle and Paul Nitze were told in London, before flying to Bonn, particular is thaty bound to pursue a how worried Europeans were about

Some SDI strategists see the space weapons project primarily as an "insurance policy" against a possible decline in Soviet interest in disarma-

They could be wrong. Both sides

fuits accomplis. He and other European members of Nato favour as narrow as possible an interpretation of the ABM Treaty.



Assistant Secretary of Defence Richard Parla (left) and Presidential adviser on arms control Peul Nitze (centre) meet Chancallor Kohl In Bonn.

the effect more generous American ABM interpretations might have on disarmament talks.

Despite strong words by US government officials that might lead one to believe the opposite, Washington Is well aware of and inclined to respect the European factor in the disarmament dialogue.

tain a common defence and not just a desire to improve relations with the Soviet Union and other countries in

The Federal Republic of Germany in frank dialogue with the Enst - subject,

of course, in the dictates of interest, The outcome of such endeavoors will depend to a crucial extent on how willing and able the superpowers are to reach agreement, and it is no to European polities to promote the possibil-

That it must on no account lay itself open to as much us the suspicion of equldistance from the powers that are bound to pluy the leading parts in the

Even where there can be no mistaking criticism of an ally it most be clear. where a country stunds

Friedhelm Kemna (General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 26 February 1987)

# **Better relations with Moscow** a prime foreign-policy aim

erions disputes over foreign policy Dictween the coalition parties are unlikely, say government sources. The broad outlines have already been drawn

The parties, the CDU, the CSU and the FDP, are in the process of determining omlines of government policy over They broadly agreed on East-West

affairs, including detente, and on disarmament and arms control.

Views still differ to some extent on South Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and cultural diplomacy, but none of these issues is likely to be dealt with at length in the coalition agree-

The Chancellor appears to have issued instructions to reach agreement on foreign policy as soon as possible and not to get entangled in details.

This approach is based on the realisation that, as the Chancellor's Office puts it: "World affairs are not governed by Bonn coalition agreements.

### Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Bunn feels its main task in the nextfour years is to exert a stabilising influence in world affairs, and especially East-West affairs, with the emphasis or

The government is keen to see arms limitation agreements reached this year, especially on the zero option for medium-range missiles in Europe, plus u ban on chemical weapons and a start on drastic reductions in US and Soviet strategic missile potentials.

The Bonn government is in no doubt that 1987 must be the Year of Disarmament, although enthusiasm about various proposals tabled in Geneval such as the zero option, may vary in degree.

So Bonn attaches prime foreign policy importance to a substantial improvement in relations with the Soviet Union.

After intensive talks, especially between Mr Kvitsinsky, the Soviet amhassudor in Bonn, and Chancellor Kohland Foreign Minister Genscher, a role of thumb seems to have emerged.

The aim seems to be a definite improvement in relations without either side losing face (after some recent disagreements).

There are clearly two currents of opinion in Bonn, Herr Genscher in particular attaches importance to a succession of highest-level visits in both directions us a cornerstone in improvements.

At the Chancellor's Office priority seems to be given to getting back to business as usual with as little delay as

Dates must, for instance, be agreed for signing protocols on cooperation in health, atomic energy and agricultural research.

The Chancellor will certainly be making it clear in his government policy statement that a constructive relationship with Moseow is very much in Bonn's own interest.

As for relations with the United States. Bonn is contenting itself with the fairly reassuring impression Horse Teltschik, the Chancellor's foreign policy adviser, recently brought back from

Continued on page 3



When weighing up its own contrib tions towards the security of other

many Americans cast an envious glac

Many a Senator and many of his

ters have noticed that the standard living and social security there is a above the American average.

It is obvious that this encouragest

notion that there must be more man

in Europe for common defence effig

ment of its own contributions to the

efforts, however, has also been heard

Bonn referred to the extension off

conscription period, the high qua-

standard of the Bundeswehr and #

cooperative military programmes of

kind envisaged in the Nunn amendmen

istration to listen to Bonn, however,

no substitute for "groundwork" in Co

Despite the success of attempts a

avert a "trade war" the protections

mood in Congress has by no means di-

argument which has so far been able to

convince Congress that a with lawlor

troops would not make sense; no on,

sided move until a mumal and balance

reduction of forces has been negotiated

Any "thinning out" of troops by the

West before accordations take place

would probably make a compromise

with the Soviet Union all the more diffi-

Last Wichard

(Frankforter Allgemeine Zeitung

with the Warsaw Pact.

The White House backs the political

The willingness of the Rengan admi

The emphasis by the Bonn gova

nt a prosperous Europe.

Washington.

appeared.

#### **■** WORLD AFFAIRS

# Weinberger puts case for keeping US troops in Europe, but debate heats up

JS Defence Secretary Caspar Weinherger must have suspected that he would be given a rough ride this year.

This is why he preferred to take the bull by the horns and make the first move in the debate on a possible withdrawal of American troops from Eu-

To impress a thrifty Cougress he he gave priority to the argument of costs. A withdrawal of troops, he said in a speech he gave in Denver in January,

would be too expensive. He wanted to convince the Senators and the members of the House of Representatives that it would cost more to "bring the boys back home" than to leave them where they are, above all in

the Ferleral Republic. It is not clear whether everyone in the Capitol got the message, since rumours of "reducing", "thinning out" or "shifting" the troops are still circulating.

Yet there is no reason for Germans to get alarmed

The US government under President Reagan is determined to fight off all efforts for a "one-sided" withdrawnl of

There is clear internal agreement on this point between the Pentagon and the State Department.

Nevertheless, there is sufficient enuse for concern in Bonn and Waxhington.

Isolationist feelings and a deeply rooted opposition to the stationing of American troops abroad always exist subliminally in Congress.

What is more, now that the opposition Democrats are in the majority Congress has become more susceptible to public sentiment.

In the face of the huge American budget and trade halance deficits parliamentarians have an even greater leaning inwards introspectiveness.

The magic number introduced to the debate is "one hundred thousand soldi-

President Carter's former security adviser suggesting shifting this troop contingent to other regions (e.g. the Middle East), where they could presumably be put to better use.

Both the State Department and the Pentagon regard this as a "foolish idea".

The American troops in Europe roughly 320,000 soldiers, of which 250,000 are stationed in the Federal Republic of Germany -have not, it is claimed, become superfluous because the threut posed by the Warsaw Pact has

The threat, the argument runs, has diminished hecause the troops are there. During his speech in Colorado

Cuspar Weinherger estimated put the had led to a situation in which "everyeost of a withdrawal of one hundred one is so convinced of the vast quantitathousand soldiers at approximately tive superiority of the mass of Soviet \$5bn for transportation, new barracks and maintenance costs. Europe" that "nothing other than nuelear weapons" seem able to combat the

A substantial amount, which above all the Germans pay to keep the American troops in Europe, would then be

Since the financial side at lenst turned out to he a "milkmaid's calculation" plans to withdraw a division from South Korea were niready dropped during Jimmy Carter's period in office.

Costs would only he really cut if there was a total demobilisation of the troops called back home.

Both the Pentagon and the State De-

# Franffurter Allgemeine

partment are worried that this "cheap alternative" might be accepted if Cougress does decide to thin out troops in Europe.

In order to counteract any move in this direction the Reagan administration argues at various levels

"Our troops are stationed in Europe because this is in our interests," said

The armed forces on the other side of the Atlantic, Weinberger muintained, guarantee security, holds the alliance together and prevents any de-coupling.

These are important aspects in an often emotionally-charged inner-Amerienn debate.

The arguments forwarded range from seepticism that the troops are "our hostages abroad" to the selfish view that "it's hetter to defend the United States in Europe than at home".

A new Nunn amendment, named after the current chairman of the Senate's Defence Committee, is not in sight.

The conservative Democratic Senator from Georgia, who unsuccessfully

Rormer Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has called for a reorganisation of

Europe's military defence system under

hi a speech on the occasion of the

award of the Adolphe Bentinek Prize in

Paris, Schmidt spoke of a need "to cre-

are a European nucleus for Europe's

people, but not Europe, of its fear of a

He said an adequate conventional

Europe, however, he said, must rid it-

self of its "overestimation of the armed

forces of the Warsaw Pact and the

These notions, Schmidt complained,

soldiers, tanks and artillery in Eastern

However, if the West were to rely on

its lirst-strike ability in the field of tacti-

eal nuclear weapons, it must expect its

opponent to also resort to nuclear wea-

"As we Germans have a vital interest

in preventing mutual self-destruction on

German soil," Sehmidt argued, "we have

a compelling interest in establishing an

adequate conventional enunterbal-

quantity-mindedness of American lead-

counterbalance to the armed forces of

he East bloc should be created. This

French leadership.

and Paris was essential.

was possible.

threat.

introduced a troop withdrawal motion in Congress two years ago (55 to 41 vnies), knows that such threatening gestures can cut hoth ways.

As opposed to Senator Mausfield, whose isolationist tendencies spurred on his desire to reduce America's military presence in Europe, Nunn never inended to weaken the western allimice.

He simply wanted to shake up the Luropeans and force them to step up their efforts in the field of conventional de-Nunn took note of the fact that the

growth of the West German defence budget was considerable and - as opposed to the disjointed Carter and Reagnn yenrs - stable.

After six "fat yearx" for the Pentagon will soon become clear whether its budget enn manage more than zero growth at the end of the Reagan ern. The growing searcity of funds and

the associated distributional conflicts augment the imponderabilities in Cou-Rutionally and irrationally justified

demands for a withdrawal of troops will play a part when the question of more money for the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) at the expense of conventional arms is raised.

# Schmidt call for a French-led Euro-force

defence ...within the framework of Nato". Close ecoperation between Bonn If the bulk of French troops including their mobilisable reserves were to serve His proposal was made because of this purpose, Schmidt continued, this what he regards as the declining determination in America to resort to onecould be done without great economic lear weapons in any emergency in Eu-

Herr Schmidt listed several aspects essential for the creation of a "Euro-He said this was shown inter alia by nean nucleus for Eurnpe's defence": Reagan's SDI efforts, which "are presumahly intended to rid the American

Since both France and the Federal Republic of Germany recruit their armed forces vin conscription it would be "easy" for these two countries to mobilise two million men.

He talked of 18 German and 12 French divisions.

He thought there would be a further five divisions from the Benelux comtries and, in addition, the British, American and Canadian units.

Schmidt expressed his conviction that on the basis of joint operational planning, command and leadership an armed forces unit of this strength would be enough to deter any Soviet leader from n onal attack on Western Ell-

"In the ease of defence it would be able to hold its own ground without foreing Western Europe to be first to resort to nuclear weapuns."

Schmidt would like to see the current Nato command structure and its Ameriean commanders-in-chief replaced by an integrated Western European delence system with a French commanderin-chief in charge.

The latter should be answeruhle to the Council of the heads of state und government leaders of the countries af-

for Deatschland, 26 Lelouary 1983 Furthermore, Sebmidt continued, the French commander-in-chief should be empowered to make all decisions other than the decision to use nuclear wea-

This decision should be taken by the acuch president.

Via a unilateral declaration resulting from the I reach standby commitments in the Atlantic Page and the Western European Union Trenty the French pre sident should extend the tasks of the artonomons force de dismusión to cose the defence of the territory of Westers

The additional conventional torces units needed for the detence situation should stock up with the necessary weapons, vehicles, ammunition and equipment over the next three to the Vears.

Bonn and Paris should share the easts. The expenditure for France's nuclear forces should also he taken into account as a full financial contribu-

Finally, Schmidt suggests, both countries should jointly develop unil construct the conventional arms they require including reconnaissance satel-

Ridiger Moniac (Die Welt, Bonn, 25 Lebruary 1987)

### The German Tribune

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HOME AFFAIRS

No. 1265 - 8 March 1987

# Mixed reaction to plan for cuts in income tax

performs of the income tax system N which will leave most Germans with more take-home pay have been agreed

The deal was decided in talks between the members of the coalition parties in Bonn, the CDU/CSU and the

The package will be worth 44 billion morks to the taspayer. Originally it was to have been only 40 billion marks. There has been a mixed reaction to

the package. Some see it as part of the "greatest tax reform in the history of the Federal Republic" (Chancellor Kohl's words in a pre-discussion promise)

Others, including the SPD, the Greens and a raxpayers' pressure group called the taxpayers' association, referred to it as "deceptive".

The truth lies somewhere in between, It is certainly no super reform as many were expecting. But it must be given some credit if it is compared with previous reforms and what is financially pos-

It is to be paid for by cutting state subsidies and public spending. But precisely how is still not clear.

The coalition's tax policy compromise has three main points in its favour: the amount involved (DM44bn), the lincarisation of the tax scale and, finally, the socially fair distribution of tax relief.

Pressure on Bonn by the US government was undoubtedly a major reason why the originally, planned tax relief figure of DM40bn was jucked up by 10 per cent to give the economy an additional boost.

Since the "panneh" of progressive raxation is to be replaced by a linear graduated system of taxation in 1990 the majority of taxpoyers will feel

The main bone of contention in coalition talks so far was that a growing manber of taxpayers, above all skilled workers and middle-income salaried employces, were slipping deeper and deeper in-

#### Continued from page 1

Woshington, President Reagan, he reported, continued to be keenly interested in foreign policy progress, such as a disarmament agreement with the Soviet Union.

That is why the President is felt not to have committed himself yet on whether the United States will be more widely interpreting the ABM Treaty terms with a view to early deployment of SDI systems.

What worries Bonn is the deadline that limits this relatively ontimistic assessment. Failing a disarmament agreement and a fresh summit conference with the Soviet leader by early autumn, Bonn feels, Presiden) Reagan's line of argument could be reversed.

He might well then try to make crucial headway at least on SDI so as to saleguard his foreign and security policy legacy. America's allies would then he in a difficult position, but Bonn feels they have a breathing-space for the time being.

Thomas Meyer (Koiner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 24 February 1987)

#### **STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN**

to a higher progressive tax scale. This had an adverse effect on the incentive to earn more money and led to growing dissatisfaction with the taxation system tand hence the respective government

It was high time, therefore, that the 'panneli of progression" started slimm-

The fact that the top tax rate was only reduced by three per cent (from 56 to 53 per cent) is not proof of an alleged social unfairness of the reform.

Such a claim is already disproved by the fact that basic tax rate has been cut from 22 to 19 per cent and that the busie tax-free amounts have been increased.

As a result the taxation curve will be less steep, which will benefit all taxpay-

Taxpayers in the lower income bracket are not left empty-handed.

The opposition parties, the SPD and the Greens, will find it difficult to win votes during the coming Land elections by criticising the government for being cohl-hearted

The reform package deserves to be criticised for completely different rea-

First of all, there is a justified accusation that the promised simplifleation of the tax system has not materialised.

The West German tax system is and will remain incomprehensible for the

he successful attempts to thin out the legal jungle of tax provisions in the USA has not been emulated in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The second question is why this tax relief package is not planned to take effeet until 1990, Why isn't the tax-payer given what he

This delay (election strategy?) considerably reduces the impact of the re-

form package. Up to now the inxpayers have paid for a large part of the tax relief package themselves, since the tax rate hus increased with every pay settlement in-

The third point of criticism, however, the question of how the package is to be financed, is more significant.

Only DM25hn of the DM44hn promised will actually be paid by the government itself (net relief). The West German public will be fin-

ancing the remaining DM 19hn via cons in special benefits and subsidies. It is still not clear what benefits will be cut or what subsidies will be reduced.

No-one really knows, therefore, who will have to foot the bill. The merits of Bonn's tax reform plans can only be properly assessed when this question has been answered and the man in the street knows what the government is giving him with one hand and

taking away with the other. Up until then the coalition parties CDU, CSU and FDP have nn claim to praise. Wolfgang Bok

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 26 February 1987)



Naw farum . . . the former waterworks building where the Bundesteg is meeting until its awn building le renavated.

# Willy Brandt gets Bundestag off to a rowdy start

The first session of the Bundestag after the general election got off to a

No sooner had Binn's established partes (the CDU/CSU, the FDP and the SPD) defeated a Greens motion than the chairman of the SPD, Willy Brandt, got up and talked about precisely what the Greens

As the addest member al the Bundestag. Braudt was also by tradition, the first speaker in the opening debate.

Ellen Olms, a Green, had put forward a motion that the Bumlestag disense the plight of the Palestinians in Lebauese

The motion was rejected by the CDU/ CSU, SPD and FDP, To a prise, lowever, Willy Brandt then branched the subject himself by referring in detail to the plight of all refugees in refugee camps throughout the world.

The votes which followed also showed that the Greens, who have now moved into the Bundestag for a second purliamentary term, are still treated like the Bundestag's "dirty kids" (according to Greens member Christa Nickels) and "trouble-makers"

(said Theo Waigel, the CSU). The proposal by the Greens that Christa Nickels should be elected as the Bun-

destag's fifth Deputy Speaker was rejected. The chnirman of the CDU/CSU parliamentary party, Alfred Dregger, expressed his opinion that the Greens are adequately represented via their chairunnship of two Bundeslag committees. This view was hacked by all the other

CDU, CSU and FDP politicians in the They began by rejecting the motions

Speakers from four to five. As the SPD was unwilling to relin-

quish one of the two Deputy Speaker posts to which it is entitled Christa Niekels stood no chance whatsover in the final vote. She suffered the same fate as her Greens colleague Christa Reentz fuur years agu.

In fact, the whole constituent gathering had a touch of sleja vu, often looking like a rehash of the first sitting of the 10th Bundestag on 29 March, 1983.

Willy Brandt was also the oldest Bundestag member back in 1983, and all motions forwarded by the Greens relating to the standing orders of the Bun-

destag were also rejected at that time. Admittedly, the venue has changed, today's Bundestag debates taking place in a former waterworks Philipp Jenninger has taken over

from Rainer Barzel as Bumlestag Speaker, and the Greens didn't march into the Bundestag this time earrying flowers, shrubs and green fir-tree twigs.

Some of the charm accompanying the Greens premiere appearance in the Bundestag four years ago was missing.

All the members of the Greens parliamentary party did this time was to onfold a banner with the words "Census Boycott" for the photographers in Iront of the restored waterworks building.

The way in which the various parliamentary parties in the 11th Bundestug were constituted also showed signs of ossification and a marked tendency act to accept anything new.

There has been very little reshullling of leading positions in the parliamentary

parties of the CDU/CSU, SPD or FDP. Rebellious candidates in the FDP, such as Hildegard Hamm-Brücher, were

called to order at an early stage. There is virtually no change at the top. of the CDU/CSU parliamentary party. The most prominent victim of this

stonewalling will probably be the chairman of the North Rhine-Westphalia CDU, Kuri Biedenkopf, who predicted n "creative period" in the Bundestag nfter the general election.

Although it has been obvious for some time that Biedenkopl, who is the leader of the strongest CDU Land group, would not be offered a ministerial post, it now looks as if the current parliamentary group leadproposed by the SPD and Greens for an ers would also prefer not to have him as a rease in the number of Deputy deputy chairman. The Greens are outer again the exception to the rule.

When "staking out their claims" there was some tough in-lighting between the various wings within the party. After a representative of the "ecoxocialist" wing, Thomas Ebermann, was voted onto the parliamentary party's executive committee the "Realos" (pragmatists) moved into the offensive.

They tried to edge members of the "Fundi" (fundamentalists) wing off the various party committees. They were successful in almost all cases.

The fundamentalists only managed to get their members into less important positions. Klaus Dreher

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 19 February 1987)



■ POLITICS

# SPD, Greens circle each other sort of concentrically

### SONNTAGSBLATT

The general election in January which returned the conservative cualition, has had a more radical effect on relations between the Greens (who increased their share of the vote) and the Social Democrats (who did not).

The drama over the past few weeks overshidows anything in the months before. Much of what is happening is not making a great deal of sense.

The two parties have been making cautious approaches to each other. At the same time, the only coalition in the country between them, in Hesse, collapsed. These two factors are two sides of a tense and complicated situation.

Particularly surprising are the numher of bitter exchanges taking place nt the very time when the parties need to sort out their own identities.

In several of the Länder and at federal level, the Greens and the SPD are circling ench other like mistrustful dogs. The possibility of coalition arrangements is there, even if no one quite knows in what form.

And then, of all times, the coalition which was mennt to be a model for Green-Red coalitions, the Hesse chalition, come to grief. The way the two parties have argued the matter shows that the nuclear plant that was meant to be at the heart of the matter was more a catalyst than a real reason for the break.

The responsibility on that issue was

The reputations of many politicaus

personalities and the chirity of their

speeches and deeds. Their own party

members often diagree strongly about

Thomas Ebermunn, one of three new

speakers for the Greens in the Bundes-

tag, is such a politican. He belongs to

enalitions with established parties).

ist-Leninist beliefs in Green clothing?

Is all this pure irony? In his speechs

Asked whether Kohl's government

he turns current arguments into their

political circumstances.

collect a fat pension.

services it had kept its word.

opposite.

their merits.

derives from the obsentity of their

Bonn's, not Wieshaden's (Wieshaden is the seat of government in Hesse). As often is the case, one has to dig deeper to find the reasons for a brenk like this. Now those on both sides who were against the pact in the first place are overjoyed.

The hreak and its ramifications show that the time is not yet ripe for a coalition of this sort at federal level. Both parties are so undecided about themselves that any deal to get them working together would be only a continual test of nerves.

A coalition between the two would have different consequences for both parties. Internal disputes about a Red-Green relationship weaken the SPD's image as an old popular party. Whereas the Greens' image is as the party of the new type of voter.

Unity within the Greens would appear to be of less importunce to their voters. Protest is more important to them than sharing power.

The process for the Social Democrats more painful. They have to gauge themselves by traditional criteria. The SPD more than any other party are suffering from social and cultural changes.

Traditional working class culture is disappearing. They are losing voters and finding it hard to get new ones.

Willy Brandt's attempt to bridge the old and new class of voter has only suceccded in blurring the SPD's profile.

Despite that the SPD does not appear to have an alternative to this difficult plan of campaign.

The middle ground is already occupied. And to leave the left to the Greens would leave them in a minority to the a two figure result election result. The SPD

is not in an envious position. The problems they fuce are nt least as difficult as those of the fifties, which led to the Grand Coalition and Social-Liberal coalition. The Greens have just us many problems. They cannot be explained away by their newness on the scene. Like the SPD they have to get the different currents in the party to agree on a policy despite having less internal collesion ind livalty than the SPD.

Oskar Lafontnine and Hermann Rappe belong to different wings of the SPD has they would not treat one another as britally as Otto Schily and Thomas Ebermann of the Greens have done. Between both of them lies not merely the middle ground but a world.

Are the differences between the two parties unbridgeable? Before and after the dehacle in Wiesbaden, the outgoing Hesse Environment Minister at the eye of the storm, Josehkn Fischer, said "I fear thut a historic opportunity has been lost."

Mnny observers would agree. Especially after the resignation of Holger Börner, the SPD Premier of Hesse, who was physically and psychologically tired. Börner's decision not to stand agnin in the Hesse poll has reduced the chances of another coalition being formed in Wiesbaden.

Talk of a historical opportunity is probubly exaggernted. The Liberal and conservative conlition means they are forced to come to terms with each other in the future if they want to avoid becoming spectators of how the others govern. But first the relationship needs some time for termentation and clarification.

The contradictions inherent in the challange of building a new ecologically minded industrial society with a new internal and external security make the

Hesse complaints look like child's play. Before they talk about partnership they should take the advice of marriage guidance counsellors, and sort themselves out first.

Rudolf Grasskopff (Dentsches Allgemenies Sommarsblan, Hambure IS Educare 1987

would support a boycott of tax going on armaments, he said "I'm open minded about people who want to avoid pnying tay." As regards to violence he is equally vugue. He said he himself would not en-

He deales that he is the pupper mas-

1951. He went to a vocational secondary school, which for someone from his background was looked upon as daring.

cause he interpreted unti-authoritarian worked in a rubber factory in Hamburg.

Later he met Rainer Trampert in the Communist league. They have been

joined the Greens to take u position against bourgeois conscrvationists.

onstrator scene to gain influence.

Ebermann's position will be to resist the opposition of "realpolitik" and to draw a demarcation line between the Greens and the SPD. Günter Bannus

(Frankfurier Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutsebland, 18 February 1987]



Doora opan, doora Kloas . . . Ham Ulrich Kloae.

### Politician makes a comeback

former mayor of Hamhurg, Hans-U rich Klose, has been elected treasurer of the national Social Democrat panthe job is a let more important thurs some and is a broost for the challenge of the paty's left left by Dskar Latoniaine.

Only a few weeks ago, Klose with drew from the list of candidates for deputy leadership of the parliamentary party when it became apparent that he would not get a majority. Klose was disappointed at what he saw as a gap opening up between his wing, the left, and a resurgent right wing. Finditionally, the left has been stronger.

Now Klose has reason to celebrate, laontaine paved the way for him. It is a beaut for Lafouraine because, ordier in the contest which is developing to find a succesor to Willy Brandt as porty chairman, Lafontuine unide more enemies than friends.

It seems that the present party leader in the Bundeston, Haus-tochen Voyel, is the devocate to take over from Brands. That is probably why Lafontaine has decided not to try and find a place on the nutional executive.

And in any case, Klose's appointment strengthens lifs hand on the executive b putting in a trusted friend. Jorhan Stoltenberg

(Hamburger Aberalblan, 24 Lebruary 1987)

He joined the Sucial Democrat party in 1964. He eventually became mayor of Hamburg, but resigned in May 1981. when he clashed with the majority of his party which was in favour of putting a nuclear power plant into service at Brokdorf, near Hambing.

His resignation was sudden, but not unexpected. In its wake, Brokdorf be come the scene of huge demonstrations.

these internal differences of opinion by necepting Klose's resignation and bringing in (the more convervative) Klaus von Dohnanyi as mayor.

For two years, Klose, who had been he was soon marked out hy some as a as treasurer is regarded as no extension of the Oskar Lafontaine faction.

(Rheinische Post, Disseldorf, 24 February 1987)

■ PERSPECTIVE

# **East Germans** just love that capitalist cash

The West German mark is known as I the Westinark in Eust Germany, In spite of East Germany's Communist government, the Westmark plays a role n the cconomy.

It is an embarrassing subject for a socialist country. Some people have quantities of the Westmark, symbol of the hated eapitolist system over the Wall. and can therefore buy lots of good things that come from the West.

Others have none, and therefore have to make do with whatever the East German currency can get them - which is not much by comparison.

The topic of Westmarks naturally doesn't get much of a public airing in East Germany. But it is recognised as a contradiction and discussed at party conferences.

The Westmark has virtually created a two-class society. With it, East Germans can huy otherwise unobtainable products in intershop stores (where only foreign currency is accepted) or on the black market.

They can also get preferential treatment in better restaurants and solve many day-to-day problems like getting round in a hurry that plumber others have to wait months for. Or any other

With the Westmark, East Germans also stand a better chance of getting

popular private holiday accommodation on East Germany's Baltic coast.

The money of the capitalists makes the impossible possible, goes the saying. Stalwart Communist Party officials succumb to the temptation.

The problem is often discussed in Communist Party circles or during party conferences.

In contrast to the media the political satirists in East Germany have their own special way of coping with this "social phenomenon".

Due to their "safety-valve" function they are allowed to openly refer to many hotly-disputed topics. Wolfgang Schaller's Lied vom Gießer

and den Kings (Song about the Foundryman and the Kings) is one of the most popular songs in this genre. The lyrics tell the story of a worker

who wants to drink a beer in an almost cinply restaurant. He is ignored by the two waiters, however, who are more interested in

serving a West German couple. The song describes how they "dance around" and "grovel" to the West German guests.

In a study published in East Berlin entitled "On the Function of Satire in Socialism" Schaller's song was chosen to illustrate the effect of satire.

Reference is made to the "impulse to the public to depart from the dimension of suffering and take a more amusing, i.e. relaxed, look at the solvability of the respective antagonism".

The underlying intention is for the audience to perceive satire as a "relieving experience".

The study's author points towards n major contradiction in the "currency problem". On the one hand, "vatious

Continued on page 6

# **Industrialist welcomes Soviet** economic cooperation proposal

7 as the Museow Forum "for a nue-VV lear-free world and the survival of mankind" merely a propagandist publicity stant on behalf of the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov?

Heinrich Weiss, managing director of the Diisseldorf-based mechanical engineering group Schloemann-Siemag AG, is one leading West German industrialist who feels that such an assertion is far from the truth.

Weiss, who attended the Workshop for Economic Cooperation at the Forum, referred to the very professional and liberal mood of discussions in Mos-

He was not only impressed by what was said but also by the whole way the event was organised.

The scating arrangements for the delegations from the USSR, the USA, Canada, Japan, the Western European and the East bloc countries (excluding China), for example, were the first surprise. Instead of senting East and West op-

posite one another the delegations were intermixed by the Soviet hosts. The guests from the Federal Republic

of Germany sat next to the delegates from the GDR. With a total of 300 delegates, however, the planned round-table discus-

sion proved impossible. Nevertheless, delegations from all countries were able to give detailed accounts of their experience in Enst-West

trade and their ideas on new forms of

cooperation. Weiss confessed that he initially had mixed feelings about his juvitation to

come to Moscow, His misgivings were dispelled, how-

ever, after talking with his hosts. The fact that the Federal Republic of Germany was represented in the Forum by leading industrialists, whereas the other delegations primarily consisted of political officials, is an indication of the importance attached to trade ties be-

tween the two countries. The spokesman of the board of governors of the Dresdner Bank, F. Wilhelm Christians, the chairman of the East-West Trade Committee of German Industry, Otto Wolf von Amerongen, Berthold Beitz (Krupp), Wolfgang Liesen (Ruhrgas) and Werner Dieter (Mannesmann) were just some of the prominent guests.

This is a clear sign of the interest shown by local firms in attempts to reform the Soviet economy.

The Federal Republic is the Soviet Union's most important western trading

Trade ties between the two countries. however, could do with some stimula-Due to the drop in the prices of crude

oil and gas the volume of German-Soviet trade (in both directions) fell from DM I 4bn to DM 7bn last year.

man firms have taken up the Soviet request to elaborate proposals for new forms of cooperation. Hopes for a speedy conclusion to

subdued by West German industrialists. The legal and organisational obstacles along the way, they claim, are still substantial.

Capital investment by West German investment protection sgreements, double taxation agreements, patent protection agreements as well as other international agreements.

This requires time-consuming negotiations.

For this reason Heinrich Weiss presented a multi-stage plan in Moscow, which he feels is a more practicable approach and which has already proved its worth with other countries.

 The first stage would involve cooperation in the form of production in the

West German suppliers would let some products parts be produced in Soviet factorics.

This means that the Soviets would not have to find foreign exchange for these

 A second stage would entail the joint design of products by Soviet engineers and their West German colleagues.

• Stage three, namely the classic licence agreement, could begin as soon as the Soviet side lins gnthered sufficient experience in production and product development.

The German exporter could then issue a licence for the production of certhin products, which the Soviet partner could then manufacture and market independently.

The licensor would receive a fixed percentage fee and as a rule continue to supply certain high-technology compo-According to Weiss joint ventures only

stand a chance of success after both sides have gathered experience within the framework of these three stages.

Heinrich Weiss at least is convinced that Soviets are keen on his idea.

The Sovier Union does not perceive the joint venture concept in such conerete terms as "capitalist states", he points out, but feels that the concept marks the direction in which economic relations should develop.

Moscow has chosen the mechanical engineering industry as a kind of guinea-pig for its mudernisation plans.

Weiss expects supply agreements to be drawn up in this field in the near future, which would correspond to the first stage of his multi-stage strategy.

The particular interest of the Soviet Union in reforming the mechanical engineering sector is reflected is recent planning target figures announced in Moscow.

By the yeur 2000 80 per cent of the products in this field are expected to match international standards and be

The mechanical engineering branch is particularly well-snited as an "icebreaker" for cooperation with western industrialised countries, since it is both technologically sophlsticated and not excossively affected by the provisions of the Cocom List.

The Moscow Peace Forum can be regarded as a logically consistent step in Gorbachov's new pollcy, which began with the elaboration of a theoretical It is hardly surprising that West Ger- foundation, was then consolidated via top-level personnel changes and is now being strengthened via an international publicity campaign.

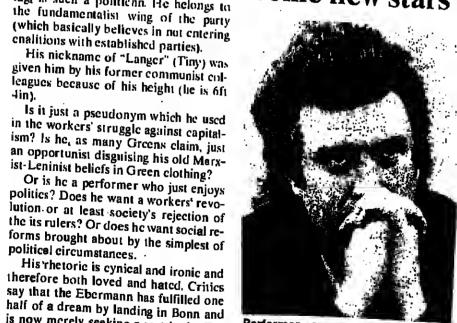
If the Forum is interpreted as a signal joint venture agreements, however, are for the West, it was even more of a signal to the Soviet citizens themselves.

It showed them that there is no turning back from the policy of reform.

Any attempt to do so now would mean a serious and dangerous loss of firms would have to be safeguarded by face for Mikhail Gorbechov and the Soviet system as a whole.

> Theo Mönch-Tegeder (Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn. 20 February 19871

# A tall ecologist reaches for some new stars



is now merely seeking a seat in the Eu-Performer or opportunist?...Thoropean Parliament so he can one day mea Ebermann,

(Photo: Poly-Press) He often says to the Realo wing (which does believe in forming coalitions with established parties under certain circumstances) that he is the only one who believes the SPD when they say they will not work with the Greens,

had deceived the voter, he says no. By stationing missiles and cutting social It is hard to pin his views down. When Green moralists asked him whether he

ter of the ecu-socialists, who like no other group understand how to gain control of important office. He maintains he gets his orders from Hamburg. Some reproaches he says are u deliberate mystification. Others on the other hand he leaves open.

Ebermann was horn in Humhurg in

He wanted to become a teacher at u technical school. But he had to leave heteaching too literally. He was drafted into the army, where he was classified ns lazy and unsuitable. After that he

close ever since. They left the communists and later

They are not interested in forming a popular party in the sense that Otto Schily, the Realo is. They are looking to the dem-

Blow for the left

ans-Ulrich Klose, the new treasur-Her of the Social Democrats, 83 representative of the hard-line, antinuclear wing of the party.

Klose was burn in Breslan in 1937.

The Hamhurg SPD tried to repair

among the brightest party Impes, was in the political wilderness. But in 1983he was elected to the Bundestag in Bonn. possible successor to the party's business manager, Peter Glotz. His election

# Politics at first hand

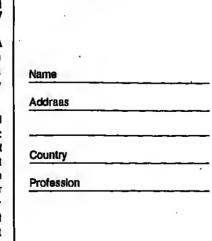
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- Order form -



kyo lust year.

■ RETAILING

are nearly 2,000.

No German supermarket chain can

match the reputation of Aldi for selling

good quality goods cheaply. Suppliers

like Ald as much as the eustoniers. The

first Aldl opened in 1962. By 1972

there were 600 branches. Now there

The Aldi supermarket chnin, owned

by brothers Karl and Theo Al-

brecht, has reached a turnover of

DM17bn a year, which is 13 per cent of

It is much more than their nearest ri-

Yei unlike their competitors, Aldi

The Albrecht brothers didn't start

Theo served his apprenticeship at the

family store. Karl, two years older,

After the war (Karl was born in 1921),

Theo in 1922] the brothers took over

their mother's shop but soon found bu-

siness too cramped and started to ex-

By 1955 they had stores all over the

Ruhr. To begin with they were conven-

tional retnil grocers. The breakthrough

only came when they decided to go dis-

mass items (currently they stock 550).

-Gosts were cut by keeping manpower

down to a minimum and spending as

und customers soon began to relish self-

service from the enroboard boxes in

which goods were delivered. They came

By 1972 the chain had 600 branches.

The brothers parted company in

1961. Theo now runs the 1,100 Aldi

stores in north Germany, Karl the 800

down south. Business is handled by re-

Family foundations hold majority

shareholdings in these companies. They

are the Theo Albrecht Foundation in

Nortorf, near Hanover, and the Karl Al-

brecht Foundation in Eichenau, Bavar-

The Aldi success story has been so

overwhelming that retail grocery has

Aldi prices set standards, All major

competitors aim to sell a basic range of

lective consumer memory as a low-price

No German company in any sector -

and not just in retail grocery - can rival

Aldi's reputation for selling quality

been hit by an Aldi syndrome.

goods at prices to match Aldi's.

It now has nearly 2,1t(lft all over the

Low prices were possible as a result,

possible on fixtures and fittings.

The first Aldl (short for Albrecht

learnt the trade at a nearby delicatessen.

from scratch. Their mother had a groc-

have flourished by opening new stores

(they have 1,900) rather than taking

vals, Rewe-Leibbrand OHG, Co-op AG

the nation's retail grocery market.

and the Tengelmann Group.

over existing ones.

ery store in Essen.

count in a big way.

in droves.

Federal Republic

gional companies.

The Paris meeting of the finance minlisters from the US, Japan, Britain, France, Italy, Canada and West Germany will go down in history as the Lonvie Agreement.

French Finance Minister Edonard Balladm lives in a wing of the Louere. He invited his colleagues from the six other industrialised states to join him there to discuss closer cooperation between their countries to stabilise the dollar exchange rate.

The ministers sat in marathon sessions over the weekend, shielded from the public by a mossive police scentity.

The first result of this meeting was sumething of a provincial farce. Italian Finance Minister Giovanni Goria, otfended because he was not given the importance he felt he deserved, left early.

The chair of the only minister with a beard remained empty at the summit meeting. Only six finance ministers were

What they had to say to waiting journalists did not seem to justify the highsounding name "Louvre Agreement."

The text of the communique distributed to the press did not seem to indicate that the politicians had indeed grappled with the economic problems facing

Finance Minister Gerhard Stollenberg, for instance, confirmed his willingness to ent back further government spending in the economy and to reform the West German tax system extens-

#### Continued from page 5

economic and political necessities lead to the circulation of deutschmarks in East Germany"; on the other hand, certain manifestations of this phenomenou "hintantly contradict fundamental so-

It is difficult to understand, the study claims, "that under certain circumstances western currency and socialist values are mutually compatible".

For this reason, the author maintains, it is essential that "amoral behaviour in dealings with the deutschmark be critieised on a class-analytical basis". Quite.

The author believes that by satirically poking fun as certain types of behaviour such as "subscrvience" to the deutschmark the audience is able to view the of the present crisis management are problem "in class-analytical terms"

railier (ban ns a "vague" phenomenon. "In everyday life," the author adds, will then he "rejected as unacceptable and immoral in the broadest sense of the word".

This, however, doesn't help those with no western currency.

Schaller's song suggests that workers without Westmarks have the "real" power in society. Yet the truth is that those with deutchmarks are the kings.

The people the satirists accuse of "amoral behaviour" arc unlikely to lose any sleep. On the East German black market a Westmark brings between six and eight

Michael Mara (Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 12 February 1987) year it would have to remit 23 billion

FINANCE

# Paris talks crisis threat to world economic summit

He went on to say that monetury poliey would "support conditions for continned economic growth by maintaining

The only passage new in the communique, from the West German point of view, was that Stoltenberg gave assurances that he would propose to the Bonn government that "the tax relief planned for 1988 should be greater in

Did he really have to go to Paris to make this proposal that makes good sense on economic grounds? Searcely, The declarations of intent from the

other finance ministers are equally as vague and informat. The Japanese Finance Minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, gace assurances that his

government would help to strengthen domestic demand with money and fiscal Jomes Baker, the American Treasury Secretary, promised to throttle back the

US hudget deficit. There is nothing new in these assur-

ances from both countries. The British Financial Times commented that it was difficult to be entlinsiastic at the results of the Paris meetng. The paper said that the politicians had indulged in rhetoric rather than get

down to deeds. It is not surprising, then, that industry, banks and the stock exchanges regarded the Louvre Agreement with a degree of scepticism.

From what has been made public so far there are few hopes that foreign ex-

**B** razil has suspended interest on its foreign debt of 108 billion dollars.

The official autonucement did not say

when it was intended to resume pay-

Brazil's decision could influence re-

If the onilateral mornturium lasts

more than 90 days the American credi-

tor banks involved must write off their

25 billion dollars in credits as irrecover-

ican banks would go to the wall. But this

time, that is not likely to happen. Neith-

er the Washington government nor the

central bank system could stand idly by

ing fresh credits so that interest pay-

Until now it has been possible to de-

have grown larger all the time, so that

now worldwide they total more than a

It goes without saying that such a pol-

icy must come to a natural end. The

debtor coutries would eventually find it

impossible to meet their ever-increasing

This has happened in Brazil's case. If

the country were to meet its interest and

capital repayment commitments this

und let such a collapse happen.

would be worsened.

menis can be made.

thousand billion dollars.

debt burden,

If that did happen, some major Amer-

payment policies of other debtor conn-

change markets will be any calmer and that a first step has been made to intprove the international ammetary system, as Balladur maintained.

Perhaps it is not fair to file away the Paris meeting in a bulging drawer for "comomic summits generally," and on that account carry on as usual.

Here and there in the newspapers from the secen commiss there are more ad more subdued pointers that the politicians and central bankers ended up with something more concrete than the text of the communique would lead any one to assume.

The West German delegation no longer contests that the ministers came to an understanding on certain important questions and that undisclosed arrangements were made which were not referred to in the communique. It is being said that the politicians and

central bankers have agreed on how they will react to certain economic situ-One participant in the Paris meeting

said: "We are prepared, you can be assured, for any eventuality in the economic situation and on foreign currency Clarity is no longer lacking. No parti-

cipating country can get out of anything with the argument "misunderstanding." the participant said, adding that this was the real success of the Paris meeting. . But this has not you been made public.

that it is a fact that the meeting resulted in all participating central banks being prepared to grapple with currency markers together in future, when they g unruly, that would indeed be a succession The Americans have until now been luctant to do this.

If behind everything there is the tention that the concentrated finance power of the seven central banks will deployed to preserve current exclarates into the future, then many spectors could get a bloody nose,

Presumably they will not try to a culate against the central banks. Ibinevitably calm would return on the or rency front.

Perhaps the verbal attacks from Aperican politicians against the "too lie dollar exchange rate" will be halled These resulted in fresh sudden dollprice folls. It is perhaps true that the Americans are in cornest when the say they will reduce their budget def

Perhaps the Japanese and West Go man finance ministers can be expected

## DIE

to automace concrete measures to by crease domestic demand in their contries at the entrency meeting of the Sy-Cen in Washington of the beginnings.

Tidings of this sort would be verwelcome, but at the present this is pm speculation.

Because there is no mention in the communique of closer conferation at an economic and monetary policy level between the seven industrialised nations, another conclusion could be reached: The politicians themselves dilnot believe that the Parls meeting was successful

Reemid Blohm (Die Zeo, Hamburg, 234 ebruary 1985)

# Brazil action on debt reveals a basic truth

dollars to foreign banks. Bruzil had an export surplus last year of almost tenbillion dollars. It is already obvious that his year the yields from foreign trade will not be so great.

Under these conditions Brnzil had no alternative but to put on the brakes. The Brazilian government did not want to have all its foreign currency reserves eaten up.

The World Bank would not allow this The accimution with which this to happen for fear that the situation course of action has been greeted in Latin America does not forebode well The Brazilian refusal to pay is the for the future. Most of the major debtor most serious signal so far that the days countries are Latin American states.

Argentina has foreign debts totalling 511 billion dollars and there are indic-It operates on the principle of providations from Bucnos Aires that the Argentines will take the same course of ne-

Mexico, with almost the same volume lay the moment of truth, but the debts of foreign debt, is at present benefiting from the slight increase in oil prices, but no-one knows how oil prices will develop during this year.

These three countries have foreign Brazilian example should set a precedent, then the international fire brigade must get to the pumps quickly.

This all goes to show hom vital it is to set the whole system on a new basis. An attempt must be made to examine each individual country's debt burden

and interest commitments and bring these commitments into unison.

This would entail considerable sacrifices by the creditto banks but, on balmice, they would be less than the endless financing of interest payments. The crox is that the debtor countri-

have made allowances for the America eredit institutions. For this reason there is now talk in the bank consortia involved of going it about.

This means that the Americans can continue to pursue their rigid precepts. while others, among them West German hanks, can make separate arrangements > as regards interest commitments until accounts are cleared up.

German banks have made good progress in coming to terms with their for eign credits in default. Valuation adjust ments have been made for years with the result that tralay between a quartet and three-quarters of these unfortunal involvements have been written off.

In other words the inability of the major debtor countries to repay would be painful for bunks in the Federal Republie but they would no longer be caloni-

It is quite obvious that pa-tme expeets that these debts will be repaid, but no banker would dare say this in public.

This fact must be faced up to and an agreement reached to give the debtor countries breathing space to develop their debt totalling 250 billion dollars. If the conomies. The quicker this is done the sooner a thriving basis will be found for w ternational economic cooperation.

This finding was reached last year in a market survey by the public relations Hampered world trade is the worst consequence of the unsolved debt crisis. agency Hill & Knowlton for a business magazine. Helmu Maier-Mannhort

retailer.

Aldi was rated so highly for quality in (Suddentsche Zerung, Manich. relation to price that the group joined 24 February 1987t

goods at low prices.

Daimler-Benz, Siemens, Nixdorf, IBM, per cent. Bosch, Bayer, Volkswagen, BMW and BASF in image.

Germany's high-flying supermarket chain

— quality lines without frills

It is a reputation gained largely by word of mouth. The company executives who were polled are unlikely to be regular Aldi customers themselves. The millions of consumers who are

Aldi regulars have been well conditioned. The Albrecht brothers have succeeded by perseverance in reducing customers' expectations to exactly what they are able and willing to sell. Aldi regulars know they can't buy dri-

ed apricots, horseradish and capers at the store. They don't pester sales staff by asking where the Persil, Asbach. Mon Cheri and other brand-name pro-

They know from experience that Aldi iloesn't stock these lines. As for pestering sales staff, they don't even expect es stuff to be around to pester. All they expect is a eashier at the cosh regis-

Even when queues are long Aldi customers tend to be pleased at the speed with which cashiers work.

They readily accept the need to econonise to keep prices down and know and accept the Aldi rule: "Cash only, no cheques." After all, writing cheques wastes time at the eash register.

This patience shown by Aldi regulars s no coincidence. It is a spin-off of the stores' popular low prices and their demonstratively spartan appearance.

Discount) store opened in Dortmund in Aldi customers really believe the 1962. It was based on the simplest of sture cuts costs wherever it can and principles: a limited range of fast-selling hands on the benefits to its customers in the form of lower prices.

Aldi's reputation with suppliers is no s involunible. The Albrecht brothers are agreed to be strictly honest and above-board.

Suppliers may grown because the slightest deviation from the quality con-

# Handelsblatt

tractually agreed is followed up by Aldi as breach of contract. They also groan because Aldi strikes a hard bargain - to the last decimal

But Aldi suppliers can be sure of regular orders and, as a rule, countrywide distribution.

Aldi pays on the nail and abides by its terms of cuntract. No-one is invited to renegotiate terms because, say, raw material prices have plummeted since the contract was signed.

Aldi expects suppliers to abide by their terms too. Prices are agreed to a fraction of a pfennig, but they are genuine prices, with no hidden extras such Yet none of the others seems to have as contributions toward promotion made such an indelible mark on the col-

Hidden extras of this and other kinds are established practice in retail trading. Aldi can manage without them; it negotiates superb terms in any case.

The combination of bargain buying, sophisticated logistics and keen cost management enables the group both to sell inexpensively and to trade at a prof-

Aldi are reputed, despite discount prices, to run at a much healthier profit than most retailers. The trade mainly

the Top Ten, rivalling blue chips such as runs on a profit margin of less than one

But no-one knows for sure. Aldi doesn't publish accounts. It doesn't need to. The management's reputation for heing saying nothing has long formed part of the corporate image.

The brothers go to great and successful lengths to avoid having to publish accounts. Aldi trades vin about 30 separate companies, all (private) GmbH & Co. KGs, and journalists are invariably told, in a friendly telex, that no information is divulged on company affairs "ns a matter of principle."

Suppliers and staff who might be in a position to shed more light on Aldi's affairs keep quiet too.

It is in the supplier's interest not to talk about business. A number of brandname companies supply Aldi with goods indistinguishable from the brand-name products but for "unknown" brand names to concent their origin.

There are good reasons for this discretion. Manufacturers who sell brandname goods to Aldi would have trouble selling to other retailers. So Aldi stocks few brand-name items.

Unlike the "Plus" range marketed by the Tengelmann Group the Albrechts have yet to fully respond to the growing consumer preference for brand-name products. It will be interesting to see what happens if and when they do.

Staff also keep quiet. It doesn't like taking them to court in the event of a dispute. If the company no longer wants to employ someone, for whatever reason, generous severance pay is offered - so generous that settlements are outof-court.

.The Albrecht hrothers take in dint view of any public disenssion about Aldi and its staff. When the trade unions pilloried Aldi's practice, some years ago, of hiring staff by the hour, calling them the "call girls of the retail trade," Aldi promptly abandoned the iden.

The company now prefers to hire part-timers and pay sucial security rather than rely on casual staff. One advantage is that permanent staff can be kept better to heel, including a pledge to sil-

Aldi is run on what is known as the Harzburg management model - on strictly hierarchical lines.

There are even two categories of store manager. Grade II managers are promoted to Grade I — and higher pay - when their sales figures and other statistics are consistently good.

That, however, is as far as store managers get. There is no further promotion. Regional managers are usually young economics or business studies

Until a few years ago Aldi didn't hire apprentices either. But when the 1960s baby boom hit a depressed labour market and apprenticeships were in short supply, company policy was changed.

As the country's largest retail trader Aldi could ill afford the impression created by not employing apprentices. But Aldi apprentices were seen as a mixed blessing.

Other retailers and chambers of trade and commerce wondered what apprentices could possibly learn in a store that sold less than 600 articles.

One chamber representative, having Continued on page 9

# **Battery maker** burns fuse over cut price

buttery munufacturer swooped on Aldi stores all over north Germany to buy up its own buteries which it thinks are being sold loo cheaply.

**STUTTGARTER** 

NACHRICHTEN

The hattery firm, which had refused to supply Aldi directly, sent out 75 sales representatives each with 5,000 marks and told them to buy as many of the batteries as they could

Aldi are selling a four pack of 1.5volt Duracell mignon batteries for DM3.45. Normal retail price is DM7.98. About 300 stores were hought ont.

Daimon-Duracell markets 80 per cent of its butteries through speciafixed cetail traders and thinks that this trade would be ruined if others did what Aldi are doing.

 A Daimon spokesman, Klaus-Peter Gras, snys about 12tt,000 batteries have been brught from Aldi at a cost of DM100,000.

Aldi is estimated to have about 800,000 Dyracell batteries in stock. The discount chain has been interested in butteries for some time and made Daimon-Duracell a bulk purchuse offer last autumn.

The company refused to do business, saying it relied on specialised retail outlets. Daimon-Duracell offered to sell batteries to Aldi but under another brund name, but Aldi re-

fused. It wanted the name, A few days later bulk orders were placed by wholesiders. The supplier suspected, correctly, that orders vere being place for Aldi.

Some of Aldi's suppliers were outside Germany, So Daimou-Duraeell ucted. Its foreign subsidiaries had previously been allowed to sell what they could where they could. They were now brought to heel and sales had to be channelled through Britain.

But this did not take effect immediately. Aldi bought Duracell batteries in bulk in the United States, Holland and Belgium.

Daimon-Duracell got wind of the purchases and decided, after much heart-searching, to move in and protect the specialist trade. Sales representatives were groomed all over the country for the "swoop."

As the batteries are only on sale in north Germany Daimon-Duracell sent in 75 of its 106 sales represents tives. Each was given DM5,000 in cash and told to buy up all the Duracell batteries he could at Aldi stores.

Two possibilities were considered. Aldi could sell the batteries either in the original packaging or in a new wrapper. The retail chain would be (and has been) taken to court if new wrappers were used.

In Berlin a court injunction has been granted. Aldi are liable to a fine of up to DM500,000 If they sell the cut-price Duracell batteries.

A. Günther Gromme/wwd (Stongarter Nachtichten, 20 February 1987)



#### ■ INDUSTRY

# How an aerospace giant grew out of a mischievous post-war beginning

When Lurlwig Bölkow sat down to plan the future of a new firm in 1948, there was one aim in mind: armaments. It didn't matter that the manufacture of arms was forbidden.

Bölkow, 74 and now retired, says: There was a business opportunity to be taken." And taken it was: Messersehmitt-Bölkow-Blohm is now the largest aviation and accospace firm in Europe. h employs 38,000 and its turnover last year was 5.7 billion marks.

In 1948, Bölkow saw that the Federal Republic would eventually have its own armed lorces.

The arms bon troubled neither Bölkow nor the financiers behind him. He said: "We produced it despite all with private money."

The "it" was a guided anti-tank mis-

Bölkow peddled a prototype of this missile around. He said: "I called on people with a model of the missile made of papier-mache and plastic pucked in a

He was not able to foud a firm that could supply him with compouents for the missile. "Either they were too expensive, ar they wanted to produce in large quantities or they fenred they would be hauled up in front of a courtmartinl."

So Bölkow, in cooperation with a Swiss company, built the anti-tank missile Cobra himsell.

The Bonn Defence Ministry was grateful to him for his initiative and on 23 February 1956 handed him his first defence contract for 4,000 Cobras.

Since then more than 150,000 of these missiles have been sold all over the world, including Turkey and Pakis-

The story of the Cobra, the first success of the organisation that eventually became known as MBB, is more than n tale about the founding years of the Federal Republic and MBB itself.

In it there are the three factors that have contributed so much to MBB's success -- creative thinking, a benevulent and financially strong main customer and partners and clients all over the

These three criteria have resulted in a concern whose products are in action all over the world, that has employed generations of engineers and that is a symbol of German industry.

An understanding of the road to Ottobrunn calls for an appreciation of the long and mutually beneficial partnership between state defence and the armaments organisation MBB.

Hnnns Arnt Vogels, chairman of the hoard of mnnagement, sees nothing wrong in the MBB public image as an "arms organisation."

He said: "We do not have to hid selves away becouse we support the defence responsibilities of the Federal Republic government in an appropriate wav."

But it is well-known that defence contracts awarded to MBB by the Bonn govrernment in 1986 accounted for only a half of the organisation's turnover for the year.

In 1985 the defence division, mainly concerned with missiles, showed a jurnover of DM1.5bn. To this can be added do not acquire any more export conthe tasty morsel of DM1.6hn in aircraft production, mainly the Tornado fighter.

This gives a healthy total turnover of at the MBB plant at Manching, involved

A break-down of the MBB balancesheet, to discover where the profits came from, reveals that missiles and fighters were in thick black figures, aerospace not quite so good and civil aviation deeply in the red.

Arms contracts are still MBB's main concern with 60 per cent of contracts coming from the public sector and 2tt per cent from state-supported contracts the Airbust.

Why are armaments so expensive? Visit the MBB workshops in Augsburg and examine an X 9570 frame, a 2.2 nietre long component made of dullgray tungh aluminium. It is milled from a massive block of aluminium in a green muchine the size of a small house, Mountains of shavings fall from the mu-

At the end of this process there is only four per cent of the aluminium brute remaining, in the form of the X 957(1 frame. People have no part in this pro-

This frame, along with others, gives the tail of the Torando its vital stability.

Orders for the Tornado have been placed by the British, Italians and West Germans, In series production every frame must be exactly the same size.

Günter Gans, head of the Augsburg plant, said: "Human hands are too awkward to produce geometrically exact

The X 9570 frame is a fairly simple small component of the total tailpiece of the fighter that includes hundreds of parts, no less expensive and difficult to produce.

Offinier Gans is proud of his plant that applies computerised integrated automated manufacturing systems.

Three large compilers control the whole factory. They programme giant

### SüddeutscheZeitung

machines with dath, making sure that he milled components are collected, they supervise that component repncements are available at the right time and, as a subsidiary operation, they pay out wages and salaries.

Augsburg is only one of many MBB factories, in which the German part of the Tornado, 42.5 per cent, is pro-

There are similar machines, computers and production lines at British Aerospace and Aeritalia.

The result of all these efforts is a ginning of last year, excluding duties, preliminary costs, spare parts and so on.

The many billions of marks Bonn has invested via MBB in the Tornado over the past 15 years has secured for the German Airforce an expensive but

modern fighter. The plane has given employment to thousands of MBB workers and staff employees as well as hundreds of supplying companies.

This, in fact, is the main problem for the Ottobrunn operation. If the British tracts then the last Tornado order will be completed in 1991.

There is not much money to be made

in the care and maintenance of the figh-

But neither this nor increased utilisation of the Tornado production line for civilian purposes is a replacement for the work, for the know-how gained and profits earned from a suitable lighter. produced in cooperation with other European countries.

Hopes in Ottobrun have been solidly placed in the Jäger 90, a replacement for the German Airforce's ageing Phan-

After various multinational quarrels, and the withdrawal of France from the project, a draft proposal has eventually been drawn up, agreed by the four partners, Britain, Italy, Spain and West Ger-

Vogels' deputy, Sepp Hort, is confident that the Bundestag will approve financing for the development of the project after the summer recess.

This contract is very important for MBB, and before Bundestag approval is given there is to be a general debate

Bundestag members are still just a little shocked at the price for the Tornado. In October last year they approved DM23thm for the new jet fighter, emphosising, however, that no definite decision had yet been reached about the Jäger 9(t,

The Bundesing, acting as a guardian of the hest interests of MBB's exclusive elient, the Federal Republic, is letting the management board arembers wriggle just a little, if only as a matter of

in the past twenty years, as so many old Because of the concern over price the hands recall nostalgically, was closely Defence Ministry in Bonn has proposals connected with the more or less natimirwhich call for modification of an existed finds provided by the state for reing plane which could be built under liescarch mid development. ence, following the idea of "Rather not all that modern, but flunneially within quently handed out to only one firm beenuse of the lack of competition, were calculated on the "reimborsement for

The plane is the F 18 from America's McDonnell Donglas.

What particularly irritates MBB here is that lubhyists in Bonn from their sole real competitor, Dornier in Friedrichshafen, make great play of possible cooperation with MacDonnell Douglas.

In one way or another Dornier will be involved, come what may. The Bunn government wants to sec Dornier partiripating in the Jäger 90.

Sepp Hort complained: "I cannot imagine why previous Bonn governments insisted on mergers in the aviation industry if it was not essential as regards size and performance to go along with international programmes."

Then turning his attention towards Dornier on Lake Constance he said: "If plane that cost DM41.89m at the bethese mergers, I can understand why now nttempts are being made to joy ride with a licence programme."

MBB boss Vogels believes that such a licence programme, "is the beginning of industrial insignificance."

But they are not resigned in Ottobrunn, MBB spokesman Eduard Roth said: "We recognise the nation's problems, analyse them with calculations and solve them with technology."

In the past few years obviously MBB's dependence on the state has hecome more and more uncomfortable.

A board member said that the effects of working with the military, that always money will be carned from these deve-



A business opportunity was there to be taken . . . Ludwig Bölkow.

Cine top Ottobrung manager said that

its design and construction was far too

sophisticated and over-developed, and

t was too expensive for a one-off con-

Vogels, previously with the Hick or-

ganisation, changed over to MBB in

1983. The message was clear to him. He

said: "We have to learn how many spe-

The golden eta for MBB engineering

Government contracts, that were fre-

The contractor presented to his cas-

tomer, who had no means of making a

comparison, a costine. To these costs an

additional charge was made, say of five

per cent, for profit. It followed then that

the higher the costs the higher the pro-

MBB management no longer clings to

its image as a "think factory," financed

Sepp Hort maintains that public fin-

ances handed out to MBB under this

system were put to better use than in

other organisations. Nevertheless ac-

cording to Vogels, "in this period, when

money and costs simply did not play a

role, many idiotic ideas were pursued; a

big dipper or a double garage that had a

What pains Vogels so much is that

many of these developments could

never find a market, they could never be

To turn this trend on its head Vogels

has established two divisions under the

heading "diversification." In these dive-

sions MBB developments and abilities

are tested for their marketability and

The product range extends from bio-

gas plant via medical lasers to plastic

consoles for cars. Certainly not a lot of

Continued on page 12

prolitability in "normal" combining

cual contracts we have to pass up, if the

work is not for defence or space."

prime custs" principle.

in this way.

scesaw some place.

sold.

No mamifacturer has a clear technologmade special demands with "absurd ical advantage. This could change if an quality controls" but paid for it all, are idea developed by a small engineering works in Westphalia proves its worth. He said: "This word special involve

Rüdiger Vogler in Borgholzhausen, os in employing many development near Osnabrück, uses a principle based technicians. The end result is rety soon a tobe or eigar shape reminiscent of phisticated but that costs money." the Zeppelin, or airship. He quoted the example of the order

It consists of a cylinder-shaped mem-MBB won to provide America's Disneybrane made of fabric clad so that gas land with a sophisticated transpoor syscannot escape through it. The tube has semicircular enps at each end.

No. 1265 - 8 March 1987

making

AVIATION

ship- and conclibuilding.

tween various models.

The caps are mounted on supports and an axle to which a compressor is attached runs through the entire length of the tube.

Tools such as spray and fibre jets on telescopic mountings can be run nlong the length of the axle. The compressor fills the tube from within, and it inflates like an pirslop. Low pressure is enough to bring the

outer skin into the prentranged shape. Stable structures over 1400 metres long and 3tt metres in diameter can be shaped with mathematical exactitude in

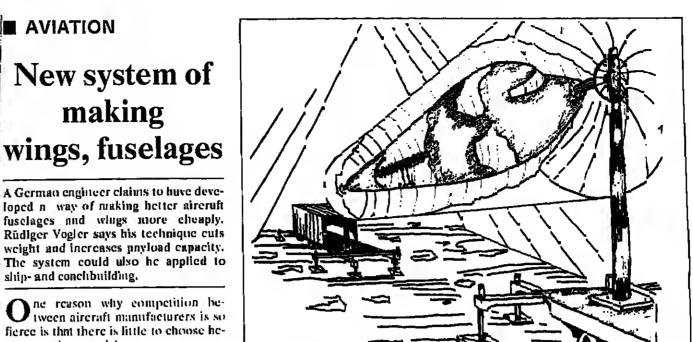
Inside this outer supporting structure, and connected with it by struts, reds an inner skin that goes on to become the inner profile of the aircruft fusclage.

The twofold construction is now clad from within in a layer of fast-drying plastic that will be the shell of the finished product.

This firm hollow shell is again plastic clad from within, using the same spray units and compressors. Different atmospheric gases are pumped at different > temperatures between layers.

In this way the many layers, all extremely thin, have the exact physical properties required.

The result of what Vogier calls "sys-



Stretoapheric . . . en impraaeion af aircraft building by tha Vogler method.

tematic different pressure-regulated pneumatic shells" is an extremely firm structure consisting of many thin strata.

The technique can, it is claimed, be used to manufacture aircraft fuselages and wing sections. It could also be used in many other industries such as shipbuilding and coachbuilding and to munufacture containers, masts and tun-

It is said to have special advantages in aero engineering, where conventional techniques are still reminiscent of classical shipbuilding.

Vogler says nirernft sections don't need heavy and unstreamlined struts and joists. His technique cuts weight and increases payload capacity.

It is also a considerable improvement on impact resistance and other mechanical properties of aircraft units manufactured in the conventional

As a result of the surface not being ---tmerrupied by supports of one kind and another there is much less friction resistance due to rivets, joints and seams. Polycarbonate and other lireresistant compound materials can also be used.

So aircraft fuscinges and wing units manufactured in this way are claimed to run much more economically than conventional planes. They weigh less and are more aerodynamic. Passenger safety

Better acrodynamics and lower weight may, given the resulting lower fuel consumption, incrense aircraft range. Vogler's technique might be better suited for building advanced space cruft

such as the German Sänger and British Hotel projects

Both are plnnned, as single-stage vehieles, for use in both the atmosphere and in outer space. A patent for the technique has just

been applied for; it was then unveiled to a small group of specialists and journal-In scale-model simulation the new process was successfully tested and

found to be feasible. It now remains to be seen whether the European aviation industry, a successful innovator with the Airbus, will check, consider and maybe use the new

nechnique. It might well do so, especially as competition between it and US mannfacturers is growing steadily more fero-

The Americans have openly aceused Europenu manufacturers of selling aircraft to US airlines at dump-They say the price asked for the

planued long-range A 34tt Airbus is lower than the cost of research and development. It can only be charged by virtue of government subsi-

McDonnell Douglas has even accused the Europeans of "rapacious sales" practices" unprecedented in the aircrnft

The Europeans have replied by nothing that the US Defence Department meets 80 per cent of US aviation research and development expen-Anatol Johansen

(Die Welt, Bonn, 19 February 1987)

The rise of Aldi

Continued from page 7

pondered the problem, decided that whichever way you looked at it young people were certainly taught at Aldi

The company is so quick and unbureaneratic in its response to public criticism that one is bound to feel the Albrecht brothers see their image as highly

The principals are clearly keen to uphold their image of being houest, hardworking tradesmen who cut costs wherever possible and hand on savings to their customers.

The reputation for honesty would come under immediate attack if customers were to feel Aldi's austerity was aimed at boosting company profits at the expense of company staff or the company's social responsibilities.

That is why Aldi is very careful to monitor public sentiment on environmental affairs, and so far the company has had very little trouble.

Customers are not unduly worried about Aldi selling nothing but disposal beverage contineers. They hav no-return bottles and cans and perhaps salve their consciences by feeling the empties can always be recycled. But times could

In 1985 the Federal Economic Affairs and Interior Ministers conferred with Theo Albrecht in connection with refuse disposal legislation. There was talk of retailers being required to stock a certain proportion of returnable con-

Albrecht said — at the time — that he would hear nothing of the idea, which was said to have been thought up with Aldi in mind. Rather than stock returnable bottles he would stop selling drinks

When he realised that politiciaus would then have to go ahead with the legislation and he would be branded as the bogyman (when in reality the entire retail trade was opposed to the proposal), he decided on an elegant alterna-

There has been no change at Aldi putlets but the group has since opened a chain of roughly 30 stores selling nothing but drinks in returnable containers as a gesture of goodwill.

Critics say these shops are a substitute for the public relations department the group head office does without.

But the Albrechts well know where trouble and expense are indispensable. Marlene Stammnitz

(Handelsblatt, Düsseldorf, 23 February 1987)

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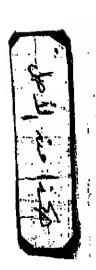
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#### **LITERATURE**

# The carefree radical who declared war on palaces



Büchner . . . dlad of typhus. (Photo: Historia)

Georg Büchner, who died 150 years ago at the age of 23, has had an enormons influence on European literature, al-

though his published works were few. Bilchner, dramatist, student of science and medicine, social revulutionary, is one of the most-performed playwrights in

world literature. He put a "decrepit society" on the stage and linked social condemnation with exis-

tentialist profundity. His aggressive sympathy with "underdoes" has been a xignmost for drama from Gerhard Hauptmann onwards.

Biichner's "artistic world view." 10 quote Nictzsche, inspired writers of the absurd and the grotesque from Franz Wierlekind to Snmuel Beckett.

In the revolutionary tragedy Dantous Tod he write: "The world is chaos, Nothingness is the world god in labour."

When he died of typhus in Züneh in

Pen Club DM30,000 tn finnnec its

annual meeting in the city, held there for

Darmstadt wanted to celebrate the

150th anniversary of the death of Georg

More than 120 of the 473 members

Büchner was born near Darmstadt

and the city's celebrations were orga-

nised under the slogan "Georg Büchner

The Pen secretary-general Hanns

Werner Schwarze chaired a discussion

with Professor Wolfgang Promies, a li-

terature expert from Darmstadt, and the

novelists Yaak Karsunke and Hans

Joachim Schädlich. Lev Kopelev and

Gert Heidenreich stood in for Rolf

Hochhuth and Wolf Biermann who had

Hans Keilson, president of the Lon-

n-based Pen centre for German-lan-

guage writers abroad (the successor or-

ganisation to the German Exil-Pen) also

A discussion was planned but it

boiled down to a few short talks and

The theme of Büchner's relevance to

our times could have been exciting. A

militant youth said during a television

discussion: "If there is anything that will

help in our times it's violence." Justifying

this he asked do we not indeed find our-

selves in a permanent state of violence?

statements, that were very tame.

had to back out because of illness.

turned up and there was talk of a "re-

the first time in many years.

cord attendance."

took part.

— his times, our times."

1837 only a mutilated version of Dantons Tod had appeared two years before. The novella Lenz appeared two years after his death, and the comedy Leonce und Lena only appeared in its entirety in 1850.

His most important work, Worceck, was only published in 1879 and was performed for the first time in 1913 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the dramat-

Nevertheless it cannot be said that Büchner was forgotten in the 19th century, for his family and friends were devoted

Since the eclebrations for the 100th anniversnry of his birth there has been a Büchner renaissance, that has continued to this dny in the East and the West.

Hungarinn eritic and philosopher Genrg Lukaes made efforts to reseuc Büchner ns part of the socialist heritage in 1937. The most important West German literary prize is named after Büchner.

Büchner, who was associated with the enrefree radicalism of youthful polities, philosophy and natural science, has always been controversial.

A new picture of him was recently presented and Germany's most fervent classicist was hailed as an "early communist" and "anarchistic croticist."

Büchner was horn on 17 October 1913 in the small Hesse village of Goddelan, near Darmstadt. His father was a doctor.

He studied medicine at Strasbourg and Giessen, and attended lectures on philosophy and natural science.

Johann Gottlieb Fichte was his favourite philosopher at this time. He was prominent in the establishment

of n local group in Giessen and Darmstadt that called itself "Society for human rights" and fought actively against the Metternich

Writers meet

to remember

Georg Büchner

Karsunke quated this provocative

statement. He said: "Stone-throwing

young militants can cite a letter that the

How is this writer and agitator under-

stood today? According to Karsunke

there was, on the one hand, the revolu-

He brought together in his elegant re-

view of Büchner contemporary refer-

ences (the situation concerning exiles in

thia country and the radio-active milk

powder that turned up in Bremen port)

and suitable quotes from Büchner and

so brought the theme of "Brüchner -

his times, our times" down to a common

Karsunke suggested with quotes from

Buchner that behind the democratic-

constitutional facade social attitudes

and attitudes to violence had changed

Gert Heidenreich described other

aspects his gerneration, the generation

of the student movement of the lute

1960, had in common with Büchner. He

little, despite appearances.

tion the Karsunke Büchner.

student Büchner wrote to his parents."

In the summer of 1835 Dantons Tod appeared and a warrant was issued for his arrest. Büchner fled to France.

In Zürich Büchner, aged 22, grudnated us a doctor of medicine and was appointed outside lecturer in comparative anatomy.

For his degree he wrote a thesis on the nerves in the skull. He planned to write a lecture on the "philosophical systems of the Germans" but nothing came of this

He was over-worked and "the whip of hunger," as Mnx Weber said, drove him to a scientific career. He died of typhus and his grave is on the Zürichherg.

The inmistakeable tone of his writing was set in the political pamphlet Der hessische Landbote, written in 1834 with Fricdrich Weidrig and including the classwarefare slogan, "Peace to the cottages, war on the palaces."

The "oppressors" had made "the Gernan paradise" into a "wasteland" and a "field of the dead."

But Biichner's belief in the French revolution transplanted to Germany was not blind. He immasked in Danions Tod those who would spread devastation and death in the name of the revolution. Bijchner's answer is compassion for mahreated erea-

This was presented with a twinkle in the eye in the comedy Leonce and Lena, but it is xtill enrnestly meant.

Suffering and happiness are both gifts of hixtory, where pain and boredom prevail, as Biichner's contemporary dramatist Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860) had

The novella Lenz is also very contempurary. The hero, Reinhold Lenz, "wants to grind the world to hits with his teeth and spit them out in the creator's face."

Büehner's last work, if the lost piece nbout the Italian satirist Pietro Arctino Is excluded, was his masterplece Woycek, It is an unordered sequence of unfinished seenes, but it communicates a grotesiple, pessimistic power. In Alban Berg's operaof 1920 its intensity becomes almost un-

> Wolfgang Schirmacher (Bremer Nuchrichten, 19 February 1987)

enlled it "the swift hopes that end in

ed our current feeling of heing nlive. She warned of the danger of "playing the hypocrit when Büchner is mentioned. We do not have any Büchners

today, no reactionaries of the 1848 kind, no hopes of revolution." Being able to work effectively towards a better future is different from Büchner and the other revolutionaries of his time and later, different to the student movement with its firm ideas of utopia. We

tionary Büchner, the socialist, then the lack conviction now, she said. resigned Büchner. There was even a She saw in this resignation the rea-Büchner for Maoists. He forgot to mensons for the "present plundering of the

peace movement." Wolfgang Promies argued against the view of Büchner resigned and fatalistic. Hans Joachim Schädlich chaired a discussion on the expression betrayal, a linguistic-poetic tour d'horizon with reicr ence to the Büchner-traitor Klemm.

With reference to the release of Sakarov, Lev Kopelev recalled the power of words, he spoke of the effectiveness of speaking out in public. Proof of the power of words is the fact that we talk of Büchner today, he said.

"I believe in the ultimate victory of words," said Kopeley in a lively discussion for which inadequate time had been allowed. Eckhard Franke

> ¡Kolnei Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 21 February 1987<sub>1</sub>

long disappointments." The Cologne authoress Carola Stern

went into the critical question he posed as to whether Büchner really represent-

Grass spent many hours walkit round the city sketching. He said thate his first visit to India, he had been on influenced by the exntie. He had a lowed the grimness of poverty to ear

not intend writing a novel about this di 500,000 on the footpaths.

Perhaps I'll write an essay, he said. would be better if Calcutta discovereits own James Joyce, John Dus Passo

But why had Grass chosen Cakella, again, a city that seems to be rapidly 60%



No. 1265 - 8 March 1987



Graaa . . . no more Illuaiona,

### Gunter Grass returns from Calcutti

"alcidta is a city which needs issue James Joyce, John Dus Passors Alfred Döblin, said German auth Günter Grass after visiting the city of \million on the banks of the Hooghly r

Grass went to Calcutta in Augusti: year with his wife, Utc. They inten? o stay for a year but left after its

He says he has no more illusions. He went to see if Gandhi's ideals still inflaenced Indian life and found that then were fewer signs of the non-violem phi osophy than 10 years ago, when he wa

"Like European ideas these idea have become exhausted. They no sound more like a sermon"

Grass was speaking in New Delhi k fore flying off to Portugal. He had abcome to Calcutta so he could stand buca finte from thorope. He was weary i entrenched Imagican arituites

His book Der Bun, dealt with his tin Calentia on his last visit to India ad ende ago. The experience had shock him. This time he knew what to expec

This time he had not been tryings discover things exclude. For weeks & end he had travelled by trans from h house on the outskirts into the city. The had, hy necessity, brought him int close enntact with the people of the city-He said its had shown him the sewelessness of the easte system.

The trains were little better than rush cattle trucks, often without seats. Brat mins travelled packed together with Ur touchables every murning, "They suffi together und sweat together."

too much influence on his judgment.

His records of conversations we people fill many notebooks, but he dot where three million live in slums as

or Alfred Dählin

eaving?

He answered: Calcutta faveinated and excited me at one and the satti time, its problems are not the problem

Continued on page 11

**BALLET** 

# No sleep, peccadilloes with the drum major, and a cut throat

Tiwo aspects this season. At the beginning classical ballet prevailed, but now there is more modern dance with some impressive productions.

This year the choreographers' favourite is Swan Lake, for many people synonymons with ballet itself. It is a challenge for any company. Even non-balletomanes can see just how good the company is that takes on this work.

There have been three productions this season, in Basle, Bonn and Dortmund, with the last of these being by far and awny the best.

Youri Vamos, ballet director from Munich, has built up a young, enthusiastic group of dancers in Dortmund, and he has got the services of Joyce Choco, a primp ballering of international re-

to bis interpretation of the ballet Vamos has a balance between the traditional and up-to-date. He develops the homo-erotic psychological make-up of the Princess showing that she had too intense a relationship with her widowed

Great things were expected of Heinz Specili's production in Basle, but in the event his approach to Sman Lake was sappointing. There was no convincing concept behind the production. Dances followed each other in any old way.

The worst of the three productions was Peter van Dyck's in Boon, There

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rman ballet is concentrating on was here a total lack of interpretation. ancient Paris production.

Munich has two theatres, the Nationaltheater and the Theater am Gärtnerplatz that have large ballet companies. But size does not guarantee artistic suc-

For years there has been an embarrossing chaos in ballet at the Bavarian State Opera. The latest full-length batlet by Norbert Vesak, a version of Thomas Mann's Death in Venice, is a fearful dance farce. Guest star from Stuttgart Richard Cragun gives the production some exciting moments but that's all.

Things are not much better at the competitor Theater am Gärtnerplatz. Giinter Pick staged the fairytale ballets The hidy and the unicorn and Beauty and the beatt. Both were very superficial. rurely providing exciting moments of dancing.

Pick's former student Bernd Schindowski did not fare much better in Gelsenkirchen with Russian ballet. It was not a bad idea setting both Le Choir. music by Sergey Prokofiev, and Igor Stravinsky's Penrushka in a Ruhr setting which compensated to some extent for washed-out choreography.

Nor were things much better in Wiesbaden were ballet director Gabriel Sala entrusted a three-ballet evening to his friend Oscar Araiz from Geneva, Araiz paid homage to the superficial taste of

the 1960s and promodern bits and pieces, une alter another, without any dramatic tension. In Geführliche Begeginnigen Joel Schnee in Osnabriick produced an intelligent collage of movement surrealistic using motives drawn from the painter Max Ernst. Schnee ereated brand-new, psychologically

convincing modern - Heid run dance. Schwaarz directs the hallet in Essen. She produced a

clever and balletically noble Giselle. Without any flourishes she developed the story of the betrayed maiden Giselle, who succumbs to her passion for the dance and has to atone to the Wilis for it. (The word comex from the Slovene "vila" meaning vampire. The wilisare the spirits of maidens who die before their intended marriages.)

> Guest stars Eva Evdokimova and Lubomir Kafka were brilliant in the leading roles. Women also head the ballet in Bremen, actress Rotrant de Neve and dancer Heidrun Viethauer, They have had to create a completely new easemble after Reinhild Hoffmann's departure to Buchum, They are going ahead with this spendidly.

An avant-garde modern dance manifesto, L'exchen, against male domination and environmental pollution, was structured in a typically feminine manner, without melaneholy, open, clear and bubbling with wit.

Cologne's Dance Forum produced two evenings of ballet, different in themes, but both stimulating. The Forum began with an unti-war trilogy. Then shortly afterwards there was Delibes' Coppelia, a late romantic ballet that really did not suit the

#### Continued from page 10

of a region, but universal." During his stay he was fascinated by comparisons. He discovered parallels with Berlin. Culcutta also "has the stigma of being divided." It is the victim of the division of Bengal in

"I like Calcutta. I have a relationship with the city," he said.

No-one knows why he is leaving India carlier than planned. Calcutta cannot be blamed for its misery. More likely government officials are to blame. Grass had only harsh things to say about them.

He said Rajly Gandhi's attempts to haul mediaeval India into the technological gards the attempt as catastrophic, because it would "only create a new techno-feudal

During his stay in Calcutta Grass avoided appearing in public. He kept German journalists at arm's length and met Indian journalists only occasionally.

But Calcutta's intellectuals knew all about their German guest, although he had to defend himself vehemently against the cliché that he was an "apocalyptic writer." Christlan Fürst

(Stuttgarter Nuchrichten, 13 February 1987)



Mördar Woyzeck. Turning things on their head in

madern concept of this ensemble. Jochen Ulrich made the ballet vivid with a psychological interpretation from the original story by E.T.A Haffmann, delighting the andience but at the same time making people reflect. For the first première of the season at the Demsehe Oper in Berlin Hungarian Laszlo Seregi choreographed his old version of Prokofiev's Romeo and Julier. By spending a lot of money and producing overwhelming sets he concealed that he had no balletic or dramatic idea of what the piece was about.

For the 150th antiversary of the death of Georg Bijelmer the City Theatre in Heidelberg gave a premier of Mönder Woyzeck, Johann Kresnik interpreted this fragmentary drama psychologically. His Woyzeek is an upright man with anal crotic lixations following Frend. So he is excessively orderly, sevonlly incompetent and

compulsively jenious. His Marie loves the pleasurable side of life and is unfaithful with the drum-major.

That goes against Woyzeek's princinles. While tenderly embracing her he ents her throat, not out of hate but out

of love and a neurotic sense of justice. The music for this production was composed by Walter Hampt, simple,

eately, mainly for the necordion. There is pleasant news to report from Frankfurt as well. William Fursythe has built up an internationally respected company with excellent solnists. His chorcography is praised the world over. His latest ballet, New Sleep, was pro-

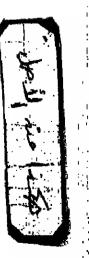
duced firstly in San Francisco then three weeks later in Frankfurt. This ballet, together with his previous production, Big White Buby Dog, to muxic

hy Tom Willems, establishes a trend. After initial, reflective bullets for intellectuals Forsythe is now heing more relaxed, menningful and cheerful. The art of dance should create laughter and so attract wider audiences.

ironie. In this ballet there are contrasts and the audience sees wild, vivacious dancing, and learns that everything had in this world is only possible if people are lethergie and do not revolt ngainst evil.

On balance the outlook in German ballet at the moment is promising. The ballet scene is broad, stylistically varied and vivid, offering balletomanes a wide choice from classical to modern ballet. Rolund Langer

> (Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, ·Hamburg, 22 February 1987t



■ MEDICINE

# Help for others from multiple sclerosis victim

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Jens Uwe Stephan is 56 years old. For 25 years he has been confined to a wheelchair. He has multiple selerosis and is paralysed.

Stephan has been in and out of hospital for years - 30 times. Often for weeks or months.

But he hasn't given in. Despite his disability, he is even managing to help others. He uses both his journalistic skills and his experience of being ill to write paniphlets, magazine articles and a bouk. A recent example is a pamphlet on self-help for multiple-selerosis sufferers which has been issued by the Lower Saxony Ministry for Social Ser-

Five years ago, another pamphlet by Stephan called "Living with a disease" was published for the health authorities in Hanover, It won him a prize, awarded hy the Lower Saxon General Medical

In 1985, Stephan's book, "Ways to treat the seriously ill. Opinious of nurses, patients and relatives," was puhlished. It is a selection of ertracts from observations and conversations compiled during his stays in hospitals. ( Wege cur Behandhing von Schwerkvanken. Meinnugen von Pflegekräften, Patieuten and Augehörigen, vim Verlag für Medizin Dr. Ewald Fischer, Heidelberg).

In it Stephan describes his experiences without bitterness or resignation. He wanted to help the patients but also to help the nurses to see events from the point of view of the patient.

He now publishes his views in medical mngazines describing many positive, few negative, experiences with nursing staff and conscientions objectors doing hospital work as a civilian alternative to military service.

It was a long journey through a tortuous valley before he could take an active part in literary or public debates.

At the beginning of the 1960s he was an economics journalist for a newsugency in Hanover. He comes from a Berlin journalistic family and his only ambition was to write.

All of a sudden he started to feel dazed, became slow and clumsy until finally he ended up having to use a walk-

Stephan said, "in the beginning one refuses to believe there is anything seriously wrong," Even the doctors were mited,

He used to say to people that he was in economic development and German from a highway car accident.

It later turned out to be multiple sclerosis. The disease with a thousand faces. Nobody can say for sure what exactly causes the it. The disease is a hardening of the nerves in the brain or spinal chord.

Part or complete paralysis or muscle tremors are associated with it. The cause of it has remained a medical mystery. There are around 100,000 sufferers in Weat Germany. There is known cure for it. At best one can hope to stop it progressing for a certain time.

The newsagency could not use an immobile journalist who was regularly ill. In 1965 after nearly 10 years, he was sacked. Fellow journalists say he would have got a much better golden handshake if he had been kept on for another three months to complete his 10 years.

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

He had just taken out a mortage on a house and his wife was expecting a baby when the crunch came. So he was out on the street siek und with no means of

Stephan spent 15 of the last 20 years suffering from exeruciating neuralgia of the facial ermial nerves -nerves prising from the lower surface of the hruinand had to take pain killing injections. He had over 700 hundred injections into the nerves. The medicine had its beneffits but was not without side-effects. He often suffered from hallucinations and later had to cope with withdrawal

Uwe Stephan slid into depression. His wife stood by him. He said: "Not every partner can stick it. About 70 per cent of patients are left alone, most of them women."

His wife gave up her job to help him. This enabled him to work for three years as a correspondent for a regional newspaper. She neted as chauffeur, wrote texts and eventually went on herself to become a free-lance journalist.

At the end of the sixtics Uwe Stephan had became a forgotten man. The journalist association remembered him at Christmas and some friends called by to see him. But that became less frequent.

Those who remembered that he had ever existed pussed their greetings on through the wife.

In 1981 Uwe Stephan took the initiative and reported back with the advice brochures for MS sufferers. When a specialist succeeded in ap-

parently stopping the pain of the cranial nerves with the nid of a new procedure, he was able to take up work again.

He has been able to concentrate for three years without permanent pain or having to use pain-killing injections.

To say simply that he works us a journalist makes it sound easier than it is. It takes feats of extraordinary will power to overcome his disabilities and type out

Uwe recommends letting the patient getting as for as he can under his own Continued on page 13

must go to meet competition," said Vog-

This change in management thinking

government's determined intention of

limiting the number of contracts offered

The chances of the MBB production

range drawing level with the products

available from competing firms are li-

In Ottobrunn people like to say that

"joint European technology" in the avia-

tion and defence industries is a reality.

Eighty per ceot of MBB's turnover

But no-one is prepared to talk about

what significance defence exports have.

the headlinea, The Argentinlaus shot

down British planes with MBB Roland

missiles and in the Gulf War the Iraqis

use these missiles against I ranian jets.

comes from multinational programmes.

MBB's arms exports are again hitting

principle to as few as possible.

duction with the accent on MBB.

ception of time and body accompan-Continued from page 8 lopments, but "that is the direction we

The list of missile customers extends from Egypt (the Milan) to Senegal (Mi-Inn) to Chile (Mamba and Roland) and Syria (Mllan.)

MBB, like any other West German was obviously accelerated by the Bonn firm, is governed by the country's relatively restrictive export legislation. In this country the view prevails that arms on the reimbursement of primary costs are not like any other products.

The German arms industry looks enviously towards France, for instance, where almost any state can buy items that shoot, fly or destroy, like shopping in a cash-and-carry.

Furthermore there has now emerged MBB has done more than just look towards France. Joint firms have been industrial policy two sources (MBB and set up, mainly with the state-owned Domier) for aircraft and missile pro-Aerospatiale.

The most active of these is Euromission, registered according to French company law. Acrospatiale and MBB each have a 50 per cent interest in this subsidiary, which will make a contribution to ensuring that all Nato countries have the same weapons systems.

Milan, Roland and HOT missiles. The firm supplies clients all over the world from France, untroubled by German arms exports legislation.

StiddeutscheZeitung

can cause feelings of isolation, chronic feelings of indifference and other psyied by the distorting of space and o men engineers but only 14,000 women.

serious threat to health'

M any still people think that hushish, the hippy drug, is harmless, They

are wrong. Regular use over years can

A report shows that prolonged use

Hashish comes from the resin of the

female plant Caunabissariva vav. indica.

Its leaves contain the narcotic marijua-

There is not enough awareness of its

tuxicity, nor are there social rules which

restrain aubridled consumption as in

This has intensified the problem as

They researched the effects of 53

henvy smokers of the drug. Most of

them have smoked at least a gramm a

day for at least two years. A fifth of

them have been at it more than 12

Krista Stosberg and Harald J. Losch

More than 80 per cent of those stud-

ied came from problem families. The fa-

ther or mother was often managing

pendent user or a member on the brink

of suicide. A fifth of the participants

sulting developmental problems are one

Contact with the drug started in most

cuses between 13 and 17. They experi-

enced a host of pleasant feelings ranging

from happiness to relaxation and pene-

But when interviewed they admit-

ted to the drug's negative effects.

Three quarters of them spoke of ocen-

sional circulatory problems and voin-

Other effects were changes in per-

Such family droumstonees and re-

had tried to kill themselves.

cause of drug ahuse

alone. The family often had a drug de-

concluded that the drug can cause seri-

recent studies of the problem at the

University Clinic of Erlangen-Nurent-

seriously damage the health.

:hological problems.

the case of alcohol.

berg confirms.

ous damage.

high had worn off. The user become 400 women members. listless and tired and finds himself war ing to take the drug again.

Eberhard Lungershausen, the che signs of addiction. And Krista Stosbe thinks that "consumption of hash cannot be part of everyday life becan it destroys social order."

One can see this in the education opportunities of smokers. Despite & being of normal or above average in ligence none had a university degree few managed to get a secondary lense certificate.

Admittedly all were employed by not in jobs corresponding to their abiliies. Most knew the drug was detrimente to motivation.

Three quarters of them teb that it. maged performance at work. More the half suffered regularly from motivator and performance problems.

a sub-culture which took the use of the drug for granted. About 90 per cent of users said that some of their friends and wives used the

These tendencies were intensified in

Stosberg calls this a social vortex "The effect of the drug, she said, "could best be seen in the area of socialisation.

Even in leisure time the drug seemed to be the only interest. Nearly a half he participants had had an accident at some time. Recent conamption of lashish was not the only explanation. After years of use the design

take years to be broken flown by the body and therefore exercises a contin-Dieter Schwab (Suddenische Zeitung, Mund 12 February 1980

This provides MBB with sizeable profits, Bonn is reimbursed with funds provided for development, the Bonn Defence Ministry gets relatively cheap missiles (a Milan missile ensts about DM16,700) and West German auxiliary industries earn profits.

Hanns Arndt Vogels does not find this in the least immoral. His voice gets sharp if he is then asked what he has to say to the accusation that MBB serves not only the cause of deterrence but afso of real spar, such as the Gulf War for

He said: "We abide by the laws as they are at present. The joint companies have been approved by state agree-

He said that he was in no way worried "if in the enurse of participating in such companies arms were exported and we are called on to provide our worksharc."

He pointed out that there had been But Euromissile does not just supply no complaints from government. No the German and French armies with the one can be more respectable and proper than us," he said.

Axel Hacke and Kurt Kister (Suddenische Zeitung, Munich. 21 February 1987)

Prolonged use of hashish 'a careers Engineering remains a man's world — study tries to find out why

> Engineering both as a trade and a profession is still a man's world in this country: there are hall a million

No. 1265 - 8 Murch 1987

The 80,000-strong Association of Problems often followed after t German Engineers (VDI) has a mere

Only nne engineering student in 10 is female, and the percentage is even smaller when peripheral courses such as director, looks upon such symptoms architecture or informatics are dis-

> The proportion of women students of mechanical and electrical engineering is a paltry two per cent.

The figures are surprising, considering the demand for engineering gradu-

The Friedrich Ebert Foundation, in conjunction with the Technical University, in Berlin, has run a meeting to ook at the topic,

The starting point was the findings of a two-year survey of work conditions of vomen engineers. It was carried out hy women sociologists for the Bonn Edueation Ministry.

Doris Junshen and Hedwig Rudolph interviewed 100 women students at the mechanical and electrical engineering departments of Berlin and Anchen echnical Universities.

They also interviewed working women engineers in Hesse, North Rhine-Westphalia and Baden-Württemberg. Many said they got on "fairly welf" Frankfurier Rundschau

with the overwhelming majority of male students at university, but there were also "many painful experiences."

Social difficulties encountered mainly nt the heginning of university courses were mainly to blame, Janshen and Rudolph found, for poor initial performance by women students who had previously been above-average scholars.

But they regained an even keel by the time they took their preliminary diploma exams and usually graduated with good or very good grades.

Fewer problems than anticipated were encountered by women graduates on starting work. They took longer to find their first job but then worked in the "white heat" rnther than on the outskirts of technology.

Women engineers are, however, mainly hired by large firms and research facilities, wherens small and mediumsized firms are evidently more tradition-

A look at the "jobs vacant" ndvertisements in the newspaper is enough to show how prevalent prejudice and thoughtlessness still ure.

Meteorological stations

all over the world

supplied the data arranged in see-at-a-glance tables in these new reference

works. They include details of sir and water temperature, precipitation,

humidity, sunshine, physical stress of climate, wind conditions and frequency

These figures compiled over the years are invaluable both for planning journeys

Basic foets and figures for every country in the world form a preface to the

tables. The emphasis is on the country's natural statistics, on climate,

The guides are handy in size and flexibly bound, indispensable for daily use in

commerce, industry and the travel trade.

Four volumes are available:

North and South America, 172 pp., DM 24.80;

Asia/Australia, 240 pp., DM 24.80;

Afrtea, t30 pp., DM 24.80;

Europe/USSR, 240 pp., DM 24.80

Look it up in Brockhaus

F. A. Brockhaus, Postfach 1709; D-6200 Wiesbaden 1

Vacancies are seldom advertised for

appropriate gender in German). Advertisements that bear equal opportunities in mind in the wording of their copy are usually placed by government, local authority or public service employers.

Large firms such as Doimler-Benz and Bosch admittedly also mention that both male and female applicants will be considered. There are even firms where special care is taken to encourage wom-

Christa Lippmann of Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm told the Berlin conference that 40 per cent of technical apprenticeships and traineeships were to be reserved for women.

This provision had been made by an all-male works council, was due to be met by 1989 and had in fact already

In job grades for graduates the coinpany planned to hire a percentage of vomen in keeping with the percentage of women graduates (in relation to

Only 3.5 per cent of graduate stall at Messerschmitt-Bälkaw-Blohm women at present, and they include economies graduates. Only five of the company's senior executive grades are

At Daimler-Benz women make up less than one per cent of management grades, said Christine von Urach, as an engineer, supervisory board member and company executive is virtually in a class by herself, and not just at Daimler-

As a representative of the professional organisation, the VDI, she admitted that the association still had ground to make good before even it could claim to

owomen anginears justique.
The Association of Women Engineers recently founded in Darmstadt could prove a usually pressure group alongside the VDL

In economic terms, from you Urneli said, the country could simply not afford to dispense with the engineering potential women graduates represented.

But how are girls to be motivated to study technical subjects? A wide range of suggestions were made at the Berlin conference. Representatives from vorious countries were agreed that encouragement must begin early and in the

#### Continued from page 12

steam. This builds up his independence. On the other hand this independence should be given a sense of purpose. The sufferer should not give up. He should not hide his disability or moan all the time about it. He must also have understanding for those who may not be so badly afflicted as himself but who also have problems.

In the introduction of his recently published advice brochure, Dr Heidi Adele Albrecht of Lower Saxony wrote. even if a cruci destiny has knocked it from your hand."

and old alike the author is helping peo- generations. ple to do just that. Lower Saxony now has 57 such groups.

Klaus Wiborg (Frankfurler Ailgemeine Zeitung für Oeutschland, 23 February 1987)

Women interviewed were found for the most part to come from father-centred families in which the girls were able from an early age to model themselves on their father.

Children's toys can be selected with a view to breaking the bounds of typical temule behaviour patierus.

Daughters ought, Janshen and Rudolph are convinced, to be treated in exactly the same way as sons in terms of motivation and performance.

They called on the Education, Research and Family Affairs Ministries in Bonn to aim publicity campaigns both at families and at schools and kindergart-

Kindergarten teachers must be trained to think in terms of equal opportunities and technical trades for girls. Toy manufacturers and children's book publishers were called on to avoid sex

Even moderately good girls must be encouraged at school - in maths and physics lessons - to consider studying engineering.

Textbooks and teaching aids, evidently a blot in the eopybook, definitely need to be rewritten.

Psychologist Lore Hoffmann, referring to Kiel University interviews of schoolehildren, noted that scientific subjects which most interest both girls and hoys are often not raught at all or, if they are, then only in final years at

Contrary to established prejudice, girls were interested in physics esperiments but frequently had little or no experience of experimenting or using tools, which was considered a prerequi-Frau Hoffmann said technology

ought to be taught at primary school. This had proved most successful in

Hoys are by no means alone in feeling physics and technology are for men. Many teachers agreed.

All women associated with academic research in this sector agreed in Berlin that boys and, in particular, teachers must be required to develop a new out-

A student teacher who had just finished practical training at school said she was shocked at the way girls re-

sponded to physics lessons. "I simply haven't been taught how to teach girls," she sadly concluded.

Views differed as to whether classes for girls only ought to be reintroduced in scientific subjects. The experts were, however, agreed that teaching materials and curriculums needed changing.

The Technical University in Berlin is to launch summer schools next year, its president, Manfred Frieke, lold the con-

Schoolgirls were to he briefed on technological studies and confer with womed engineering graduates as exnmples of what they might accomplish.

Herr Fricke took up Frau Janshen's idea of setting up a cooperative network with industry in order to help women students find truinceships and, later,

Assistant lecturers of both sexes are to be appointed as advisers to women "You must regain control of your life students at departments of the Technical University.

But the main aim is to promote wom-By showing people the benfits of self- en engineers in executive grades as help and of encounter groups for young models to be emulated by successor

The universities themselves cannot exactly claim to have a very good track record in this respect.

Suse Weidenbach (Frankfurter Rundschau, 19 February 1987)



# Centre provides therapy for torture victims: 500 helped in one year

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

ast year 500 people, 40 showing Lasigns of having been badly fortured. visited a refugee aid centre in Cologne.

They came from Afghanistan, Iran. Laos, Burkina Faso, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Turkey, Vietnam and Zaire, Amnesty international claims torture is used in 80 to 90 countries.

The Cologne centre, run jointly by the United Nations Commission for Refugees and the Catholic charity organisation. Caritas, treats the mental sears

Harmless-looking games form part of this therapy. Osman, a Turk, tried to explain to a German women how his mother used a shawl round her head to carry him and bis brothers and sisters as children as she was planting tobacco in the fields.

Tapsoba from Burkina Faso, formerly Upper Volta, came to life when he played imaginary drums in time with music from a cassette. His supple hands got going in a way the others could not follow. No one would have thought it was the same, tall, inhibited man,

Behind the games is a deadly earnestness. Those who take part in the dance therapy laugh for a while and the jollity of the women group leader is infectious but these signs of pleasure only break through their sadness and depression for a short time.

Taking part in situations such as these helps the refugees in the centre to find a way round never-to-be-forgotten experiences into a normal life that is still full of a sense of loss and deprivation.

Most of those who make their way to the Cologne centre would never be able to get over what they have been through without others' help. Somewhere in the world they have been though the most brutal and cruel torture.

The centre in Cologne offers security. The help it offers brings them back from the precipiee of their nightmores and frightful memories.

Hussin from Afghanisian, for instance, 30 years of age, who, with his wife, has been through a series of therapy ecosultations for mooths on end to rid him of the cruel auxiety and cramp every oight

He fled Afghaoistao foor years ago and come to West Germany via Pakistao. He was suspected of belonging to the Afghan insurgents.

He was arrested and badly treated. His hands were croshed together, he was tortured by electro-shaeks, kicked io the side by soldiers wearing military. buots so that he still suffers from signs of paralysis.

Hassao was idealised by his wife Mina. 10 years his juoior. Like Hassan she also comes frum an intellectual family background. They were married to West Germany.

Sooo after her marriage she realised that she was living with a brokeo mao. Husson sometimes crouched sileotly for hours on end in a corner. There were oights when he sereamed

in his sleep.

Brigitte Brantl, a psychologist uod head of the centre, said: "All the anxieties that he did out feel when he was being tortured, come to the surface oow when he is safe." This she said was a typical after effect of torture.

#### Frankfurier Rundschau

Hassan also regularly had difficulty concentrating, which is a frequent symptom in people who have been illtreated with electro-shocks.

Fran Brand said: "Either the electroshocks caused brain damage or these people hare given so much mental energy to overcoming the trauma of the forture they have no time for anything

For the past six months Hassan has not called out at right. He has given up ideas of stodying further. Mina and he have come to terms with the realisation that he will not become a university pro-

Fran Brand said that this had been a painful recognition of what is possible, achiered with her help

He is at present learning a trade, As an acknowledged political exile he has no trouble getting a work permit. During her work at the centre Fran-

Brand has acquired a good overall view of what goes on in various countries. She sees Turkey, for instance, in quite a different light to official statements

that maintain that forture is not condoned in the country. She said: "I don't get that impression, because I have seen so many people with worods and symptoms, that point-

ed to only one thing." She can hardly bring herself to talk about the torturing of people in Afghanistan. She said: "It is graesome. I have a client from Afghanistan who had had his figure nails pulled nut."

She has learned from Iranians that people there who are tortured are eventually executed.

The people who come to the centre in Cologne were in their home countries mainly intellectuals, journalists and trades union officials, and are generally between 20 and 35. A third are worden. There are some young people, almost

From Brnod explained: "Most of the

people who come to this centre are politically-minded so it is important that the psychologist who treats them can follow what they sny."

One of the basics for the people who work at the centre is that they must have bad something to do with the problems refugees have to face. Work with Amnesty luternational, for instance, or practical experience in a Third World country, is helpful,

People who have been fortured often display marked fear reactions and quickly get excited, which they can only overcome by being aggressive.

They suffer from anxieties, many start in fear at the sight of a policeman. They have a fear of noise and think they are back in their prison cell when a neighbour is just knocking a nait into the wall. It reminds them of their tor-

"I avoid running my hands through my hair when I'm thinking. As soon as I raise my hand I notice that these people start up and look at me with anxiety," Brigitte Brand said.

She is 34 and petite, with a youthful appearance, which certainly does not k intimidating.

But the victims of torture can react with reserve and even mistrust at a display of friendliness.

A young Turkish girl had been blindlolded and sexually abused. During the ordeal she repentedly heard a man's voice suying: "What are you doing here?" Let her go." The voice then said in an effort to cheer her up: "Come on, tell us what we want to know. You can see what is going to happen to you."

She was unable to establish if there were two toen or one min using two voices, one thrmenting, the other

The experience hos left her with un ambivalent attitode towards people who are friendly to her. In other words, her friend could also be her enemy.

Her husband died uoder forture. She now lives alone in Bono. At a certain point she discontinued her therapy, because she coold oot earry oo any longer.

"Bot she will come back," Frau Brand swid. "because the therapy is her only



Tharapy for tortura victima . . . invisible scare.

(Photo, Schreiber)

chance to come to terms with here

Christin, a To year-old Ethopian has been able to overcome her exp. ences.

She was arrested just because she a member of the Mykene Jesus sect.) days she had to an cive in a cell dripp with water. She was sexually abused eventually managed to get aways now lives alone and leels abandoned

The people work at the centre le become surrogate parents in a may

After her the copy she had learned least that she could not offace from life the torture she had experienced.) could not ron away from it.

Soldiers in Letemon poured per over a family man in the street and: him alight. He was able to survive \$ but a little later his two children s. killed by a bomb. The rest of the lag Hed to West Germany via Last Berlin

They were not given asylum bear people fleeing civil wars are not toósed as polifical refugees.

This mun trembled with anxiet of fear of being repatriated.

What has happened to one member a family has its effects on all the oth-Brigitte Brand said: "The victim on the only one who sutters, Children, cograndchildren, can be affected. T means we have to do something set in the firme out too many people see from what was done to their parents'

Many parent, 115 to spare their chi? ten from the knowledge of the house they have experienced, which create barriers between parents and children.

Nothing is said in the family circle about what hope-ned, but the children get to know about what happened who their father screams out at night an their mother is depressed.

They become anxious and do no know bow to handle this situation, he they know that their parents are tros

"Fhey try to buling some stability e" their parents and pot ande their ow Bolivia, Tunzoois and Ethiopte unxietles and problems. They becomextremely sweet and properly behave already been twinoed enter joint pro-

Then they show the same symptoas their pureous. They cannot skip properly. They have inglumares as psychological problems.

In family group therapy the famil cantiously discovery of a happened to the parents, which break clowothe barriers of silence and foreboding.

How do the staff of the Cologie centre deal with the problems that are

placed before them day after day? Fran Brand answered. We can desoloething be giving a sense of securit and hybring able to do something in the most difficult croses. By giving hope that the people still have a chance in life."

She said that she hoped that the paients who came to ber and her colleagues in the centre could see from their example "that life was still worth living. That we are not a lot of wei blan-

What does all this talling ochieve, all these hours of consultation it, when a young Taioil is eventually helped to get over his epiletic tits, he has to be sentback to Sri Lanka Fran Brand said that be would not

survive that. Neither would the Lehaoese omn surrive being repairmated neo ifter his octions condition had been Before that happened he has thresh

ened to kill his family. And who could dissoade him after all he has suffered? Ingrid Müller-Munch

(Frankfur)er Runds, hau, 20 February (987)

No. 1265 - 8 March 1987

# Town-twinning seen as a way of helping development in the Third World

S pecial relationships between towns or cities, often known as "twinning", were common after the First World War. After the Second World War, there was a regular boom to town twinning because of the need to try nod recoocile and understand.

There was hardly a centre of noy size that did not have at least one - many had more - twinning arrangement in Europe, the United States or Japao.

The idea seems now to have lost much of its attraction in these days of mass toorism. Maoy partnerships have become mere paper relationships. The people know just as little about each other as before.

But towards the end of the 1970s, the thrust of the concept began to change. People began to look to the underdevetoped countries. The rich of Europe should help the poor of the Third

lu Britain, in France, in Belgium, in Holland, in Denmark and in Germany, movements began which crossed into fields that had been almost entirely the domain of the State of the churches.

Small centres began to figure particularly promioeotly: Rheda-Wiedeobriick raised about 25,000 marks and helped boild a school in Aouda, in Togo; and in ecojonction with the Dutch town of Oldeozaal, it sopported a project to train young tradesmen in Biriwa, in

The bishoprle of Münster has developed contact with the hishopries of Wil, Tamole and Navrongo-Bolgatanga in Ghaoa. Communities and citizens' intiptives support the building of clinics and homes for the disabled in Brezil, Gordon and French towns that have

icets in the Third World. The centre of Linhustein, for example, which is twinned with Ouahigooya in

Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Voltn), bas been for looger a twin of Vence, in Fraoce. Lahostein and Vence are helpion to build a school and a small church; send medicioes and spectneles; and have provided X-ray apparatus, millet mills and many other items to various

Many communities restrict their aid to one town or area. In Bremen, the op-

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DER TAGESSPIEGEL

posite is true. The city itself is promoting cooperative ventures involving diverse groups.

The city is the cootact point for all parties, regardless if they want to helpin Poona, in India, or Corinto, in Nicaragua. One university is providing schoolbooks for country areas of South Africa.

The first division Bremeo soccer elub, Werder Bremen, is collecting agricultoral implements for Zambia. The eity's Senator for Health is trying to arrange and exchange of doctors between Bremen and Gambia. Twinning tends to work badly where a

single person or one group are the sole parcipants. Often, few exchanges take place.

The mayors sign documents with great flourishes, shake hands with broad smiles and beam at the camera of the local photographer. But then a change of council or

There are problems with language and the cost of air tickets to be overcome. Deeprooted attitudes towards the prior of the would have to be overcome. Because basically, the belief still is that cooscieoces can be hought off simply by giving; but that is not partnership. Partnership is a more balanced relationship

Wolfgnng Blum is the head of Lahostein's twin-town committee. He says it takes at least 10 years for partnerships to get established.

He has stopped his hobbies and sports to devote loure time to the project because he knows that the work is always done by the few. He says it without bitterness.

Neither does Herr Bliim have any truck with party-political or ideological intrusion. He said that after a change of government in Burkioa Faso, a CDU member of the local council suddeoly decided that the twin-town arangement should not contioue. Herr Blüm said he was able to convince the doubter that friendship was searcely worth having if

it was organised along political lioes. "It has nothing to do with the politics of capital cities. It does have everything to do with getting to know and understand

But there are politically motivated arrangements. Critics point to the 1982 connection established between the CDU-governed Land of Rhineland-Palatinate and the Ensi African nation of Ruanda.

To the past few years, many centres with Social Democrat majorities or strong representations of Greens have demonstratively become twin towns with ceotres to Nicaragua.

Oo the other hand, politics could not have been forther from everyone's minds in 1966 when the choral society in Haiotscheo, in the Taunus, invited 8 choirs from Belgium and America to take part in a festival. An African student in the towo was asked to find some of his compatriots to make a contribution.

So it was that 18 students from Malawi came to the town and gave a performance of songs and dancing. The performance was so successful that the local mayor, Karl Liescrung, kept up the contact with Malawi, Ever since, people from Malawi have always been welcome.

Twenty years later, the student who arrunged the ensemble is still in cootact. He returned home years ago. This year, young singers from Hainchen are to vis-

(Det Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 15 February 1987)

The Kurdish institute in Buon is promoting and backing a trunslation of the Bible into Kurdish. The book of Loke has been completed. Matthew, Mark and John will follow. Some of the works will appear as pictore bibles for children with the text in both German and Kurdish (there are Christian as wellas Moslim Kurds).

The heard of the three-year-old institute is Geylani Yekta, a Kurd from the enstern part of Turkey. The institute is sort of offspring from the Kurdish institute in Paris, which has built up a rich tradition of promotion the Kurdish cut-

The foondation of the institute in Bonn was a sort of experiment become it cannot get any nid from its own State: there is no Kurdish state. Kurds, people without a nation, live in five countries. Four of them, Turkey, Syrin, Irnq nod Irao, are io the Middle East. The fifth, the Soviet Union, contains only a few of

the estimated 20 million Kurds. The aim of the institute is not only to spread information about the Kurds but also to enable Kurds themselves, spread as they are, to more easily recognise their coltural ideotity.

# The Kurds, 20 million people without a land

About 30tt,tt00 Kurds live in West Germany, Most caloe from eastern Turkey. These are difficult days for them. In eastern Turkey, oorthern Iraq and Iran, they are lighting bitter wars against the respective governments which are continuntions of disputes from the 19th century. In Iraq, they do have a certain amount of local mitoning.

But the institute is mainly concerned with cultural affairs. It wants Germans to

learn about the Kurds — and vice versa. Germans have a reference point to Kurds io the works of author Karl May. Aov Germao who knows ooythiog at all about Kurds will probably have picked it up from reading "Through the wilds of Kurdistno"

Kurdish specialist and author Hans Hauser found that May's knowledge of the Kurds came from the travel writings of British advecturer and archneologist Aostco Heory Layard. Layard came across the Kords during digs in northern Iraq io the 19th century. But oeither Layard oor May were able to reveal the scerets of the Kurdish coltore. That only happened this century.

The Kurds have been living for at least 3,000 years in the area which is still regarded as their priocipal area, io the mouotains in western Irao and south-eastero Türkey.

The Kordish language is an Iranian language. Perhaps the Kords are related to the Iranian tribe, the Mcdes, who were also in westero Iran and who were defcated by the Achaemeoids to the 5th century BC.

Xeoophon, the Greek mercenary and writer who set out with a force of Greek throoc, relates the account of his defeat at the hands of the Achaemids and the alect, subsequent flight to his Anabasis.

In it he also mentions the existence of

a licrce, lighting mountain people called "Karditehen", who made life for the retreating Greeks extremely difficult.

The Kurds have been fighting their rulers on mid off for loudreds of years, even after they became Muslims, Most became Sunnis but there are also some Shiftes and some Christians as well,

In south-east Turkey, oorth of Aleppo in Syria and in some parts of northern Iraq live the Yezidi. Many of them are Kurds. The Yezidi bave their own monotheist religion but it has elements

of natural theologies. The best-known figure in Knidish lilstory ls Saladin (1138-1193) who was horn of Kuralish descent in Tikrit, Mesoponimin, in modern-dny Iraq. He later became the Sultan of Egypt, By 1186, be had united the Muslims ugainst the Christian Crusuders, Salndin (Yusuf ibn-Ayyub Salah-al-Din) developed a reputation aroung both Christians and

Muslims for his chivalrous conduct. Ove the pust 100 years, the Kurds hove heeo forced more and more often to fight to defeod their freedom. The yeor 1880 can perhaps be regarded us the birth of godern Kurdish notionalism. The Kurdish sheikh Uhaidallalı orgaoised a major iosurrection which cootrasted sharply with the sporadic, uncoocer ted efforts uotil then.

There has been no peace since in Kurdish areas. The 20th century has been a chain of rebellions against Teheran, against Baghdad und against Coostsniioople and, later, Ankara. And that is still the situation.

meetings and cultural evenings to spread the word. It shows, for example, films by Yilmaz Güney, the Kurdish director who recently died at the age of 47. He had been a popular actor in Torkey for maoy years, but his films are oow banoed there.

The institute has produced, in coniunction with Göttingen University, a book of Kurdish grammar in German. The first volume deals majoly with the soldiers of fortune to take the Persian dialect mostly spoken to northern areas. A second will deal with the soothern di-Wolfgang Günter Lerch

> (Frankfuster Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 27 January 1987)